

## Factory fears

A factory employing 42 disabled people and backed by the Queen Mother may close.

The Queen Elizabeth Foundation (QEF) run factory does ceramic work, mailing and packaging.

The majority of its disabled staff are employed through Workstep, the government supported employment scheme. But QEF says that the government has underfunded the Leatherhead-based factory to the tune of £3 million over six years.

As DN went to press, QEF was in the middle of a 30-day consultation period with staff and the government looking at options for keeping the factory open. But staff have received letters asking if they are interested in voluntary redundancy.

QEF chief executive Cynthia Robinson said the charity was under a legal requirement to mention redundancy in the letter it had sent to staff.

But she said: "We are very keen that the factory continues, and that its problems are

solved. It is important that we get this right and that we get a sound future for our disabled workforce."

The QEF's director of fundraising and marketing, Tony Richins, added: "What we are saying to the government, and have been for a long time, is that we have got to get a more realistic level of fees to ensure that there is a long-term viable operation."

However, it also emerged that the QEF itself, which includes a mobility centre and training college, has faced serious financial problems. Last year, the foundation, which had an income of £9.4 million, had a deficit of £739,000. It expects to half that deficit this year after cost cutting measures.

The government currently pays about £350,000 a year to pay staff wages, leaving the charity to pay a shortfall in revenue of about £250,000.

Bryan Macey, a union organiser at the factory, said he feared the workers were to be sacrificed because of the foundation's overall financial problems.

He said: "I believe closure is inevitable."

It also emerged that the foundation is owed almost £180,000 by a private print company which took over the print operation three years ago.

A government spokesperson said: "The government has paid in full all the money due to the QEF under the contracts. It would be for the foundation's management to comment on why there has been a shortfall in the overall revenue."

But Jim Ryan, regional industrial organiser at the TGWU union, said: "It is disgraceful that people who need government help to lead independent and productive lives are being denied sufficient help."



PRESS ASSOCIATION/MYUNG JUNG KIM

Blinded by progress: Cherie Blair was helped through an obstacle course by guide dog Amos to mark the relaunch of the Guide Dogs London Centre, run by The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

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### Case clears first stage

A teenager with diabetes has won the first stage in a landmark court battle to be allowed to take part in school activity trips.

Tom White, aged 16, was not allowed to join pals on a watersports trip to France.

He complained to the Disability Rights Commission, which has brought a case against Clitheroe Royal Grammar School under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), the first time its goods and services provisions have been used against a school.

Preston County Court ruled that the trip was covered by the act. But it has not yet decided whether Tom was discriminated against.

The school also banned Tom from an exchange trip to Germany, but the court decided this was not covered by the DDA. From September, new legislation should remove this loophole.

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FRONT COVER: WHEELCHAIR-USER MICHELLE LEWIS 19, THE YOUNGEST PERSON IN 60 YEARS TO BE MADE AN MBE. SEE STORY ON PAGE 6 PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MIRROR.

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### printing

Voluntary Sector Services, Centurion Press Limited, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, Tel: 01923 891000

### distribution

MMC, Octagon House, White Hart Meadows, Ripley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6HR

### alternative formats

**Disability Now** is also available on cassette, disk or via e-mail from Talking Newspapers Enterprises Ltd. For orders or queries, tel: 01435 862737. ISSN 0958-4676

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# Scheme scrapped

The government has dropped plans to bar 20 per cent of would-be participants from a scheme aimed at helping disabled people find work.

The New Deal for Disabled People (NDDP), launched nationwide last October, provides advice and support for people on incapacity benefits who want to find or remain in work.

Under the original plans, a random 20 per cent of those who volunteered for the NDDP would not have been allowed access to this support, to allow the government to check that the scheme worked.

This so-called "random assignment" angered disability campaigners, who said those

excluded would not gain the full help they were entitled to.

Random assignment has now been scrapped. A government spokesman said this was because the national roll-out of Jobcentre Plus, which merges job and benefits advice at compulsory interviews, would have made it pointless.

But Steve Winyard, head of public policy at the Royal National Institute for the Blind, said: "We have pressed the government hard over the last 12 to 18 months for a change in the evaluation system."

Bert Massie, chair of the Disability Rights Commission, welcomed the decision, but warned that the government must monitor the NDDP.



It's good to sign: Deaf actress Fiona Garfield features in a television advert for BT, the first to be conducted entirely in British Sign Language. In the advert, she is seen using a videophone to gossip with a friend.

## Clients pay to get sex

Major disability charities have confirmed that some staff have supported disabled people to use prostitutes.

Charities Leonard Cheshire and Scope stressed that they support disabled people in the full range of sexual and loving relationships including marriage.

Simon Parritt, director of the Association to Aid the Sexual and Personal Relationships of People with a Disability (SPOD), praised the charities for their openness. He said: "The general population use prostitutes and disabled people should have the

choice to do that as well."

His comments came after Fiona Street, director of services at Leonard Cheshire, which has 2,000 residential care places, told DN: "We have examples of service users who actually do visit prostitutes and they have been given the support to do that, arranging transport. Prostitutes have visited establishments in order to provide a service."

Staff never engage the services of the prostitute for the client, she said.

Meanwhile, John Adams, an executive director at Scope,

another residential care provider, said it had general guidelines emphasising the need to support people's choices, but there was no formal policy on prostitution. However, he confirmed that at a local level, a client might ask for help in using a prostitute. He said: "Their key worker may very confidentially and sensitively support them in those needs and those arrangements. I'm aware that that does happen."

He said clients should be aware of the dangers of sexually transmitted disease or of being ripped off.

## Waiting for warmth



Severely disabled people are waiting for a ministerial response to a survey showing how much they need the £200 winter fuel payment.

The ongoing survey, organised by *Disability Now*, stands at 1,250. All the participants say they cannot keep warm in winter because they cannot afford to run enough heating. They are calling on the government to extend the £200 paid to all pensioner households to severely disabled people of working age. So far the government has refused to budge.

Maria Eagle, Minister for Disabled People, is considering the implications of the survey, sent to her in early January.

DN editor Mary Wilkinson said: "We hope the Minister will use her influence to right a wrong to severely disabled people and pay them the £200 this winter."

Twenty-one disability and caring organisations support the campaign, as well as the Disability Rights Commission. The survey form is at [www.disabilitynow.org.uk](http://www.disabilitynow.org.uk) and please press your MP to sign Early Day Motion 289.

### In brief

#### Conviction overturned

A man who spent 27 years in prison for a murder he always claimed he didn't commit finally had his conviction quashed.

Stephen Downing, 45, was found guilty in 1974 of the murder of Wendy Sewell. At the time, when he was 17, he had a reading age of 11.

But three Appeal Court judges ruled that the conviction was unsafe because evidence at the original trial was unreliable.

#### NICE denounced

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence was criticised at a House of Commons inquiry in January.

The Multiple Sclerosis Society and the Consumers' Association were among witnesses giving evidence to a Health Select Committee inquiry into the institute.

They both criticised the way it reaches decisions on whether drugs should be prescribed on the NHS.

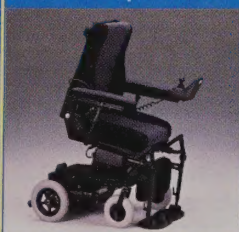
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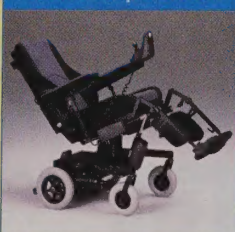
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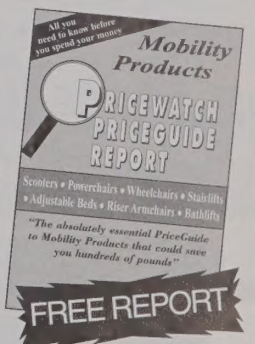
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# Cop shock in Manchester



Two police officers are being investigated by their own force after allegedly parking in a disabled bay outside a supermarket – and then popping inside to do their shopping.

They were spotted by a retired police officer who took pictures of the police Ford Transit van outside the Asda store in Trafford Park, Manchester.

He also photographed the male and female officers leaving the store with shopping bags.

Assistant chief constable Alan Bridge, of Greater Manchester Police, said: "An immediate investigation has been launched after details of the allegations made by a member of the public came to light.

"It would be inappropriate to comment further. However, Greater Manchester Police expects the highest professional standards from all its police officers and staff."

Joanne Done, the store's customer services manager, said: "Nobody is above the law.

"I don't think police officers should park in a disabled space and do their shopping, because it is obvious that somebody disabled might need it."

DN editor Mary Wilkinson said: "It's shocking for the police to flout the law and set a bad example to other drivers."

Representatives of Asda, Sainsbury, Tesco and Safeway will be meeting Baywatch members on 8 February to discuss the ongoing campaign to tackle disabled parking space abuse.



MEN

## Health trust rapped

The NHS watchdog has criticised a health trust that detained an autistic man for more than four months against the wishes of his carers.

The man, L, who cannot be named, was admitted to the Bournemouth Resource Centre to be assessed after he became disturbed at a day centre in July 1997.

Bournemouth staff refused to allow the man to return to his carers, Mr and Mrs E, until December. For most of that time, they weren't even allowed to visit.

The NHS Ombudsman's report concluded that L should probably have been discharged within a day of admission.

The Bournemouth Community and Mental Health NHS Trust apologised to the couple for the "inordinate" delay in discharging him and admitted "shortcomings" in how he was cared for.

Mrs E said: "The report shows there was no foundation for any clinical reason to keep him there at all."

She and her husband are taking the case to the European Court of Human Rights, to try to secure rights for disabled people detained informally who cannot consent to treatment.

David Pamment, a trust director, said people with learning disabilities and mental health needs are now assessed and treated in the community and only admitted to hospital as "a very last resort".

## Case fails

An Indian court has dismissed an appeal by a deaf British charity worker jailed for drugs offences.

Ian Stillman, 50, has spent more than a year in prison in Himachal Pradesh, India.

He was not provided with an interpreter during his trial last year and was found guilty of cannabis possession and sentenced to ten years in jail.

Stillman, who has always denied the charges, can still appeal to India's Supreme Court.

## DDA revamped call

A bill aimed at plugging gaps left by the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) has been introduced in the House of Lords.

The bill, introduced by Lord Ashley, would bring in many rights which the government has said it favours introducing, but has not given a date for.

For instance, it would extend rights to people with cancer and HIV from the point of diagnosis. And it would bring employers of fewer than 15 staff within the law before the government's

promised date of 2004.

Transport would be brought within the DDA while the Disability Rights Commission (DRC) would be given the power to take cases under the Human Rights Act.

Lord Ashley said: "We have had nice noises over some of these things, but what we want now is action. Part of the purpose of the bill is to push the government into either accepting these issues now, or bringing forward

its own concrete proposals."

Meanwhile, the DRC expressed concern at the government's proposal for a single Equality Commission. It wants guarantees that this will not weaken the position of disabled people and that there would be no reduction in funding to tackle disability discrimination.

The proposal is contained within a consultation paper on the implementations of the EC Employment Directive.\*

\* <http://www.dti.gov.uk>



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**Advertising ignorance:** A controversial television advert for the National Autistic Society aims to shock the public into a greater awareness of autism. It features a boy banging his head against a wall, illustrating how hard it is to understand the condition.

## Council slammed

An MP has criticised Brighton social services after a disabled man collapsed from lack of food.

David Lazarus, 39, had not eaten for 18 days because he says he couldn't leave his bed and breakfast accommodation to buy food. He was admitted to hospital with suspected diabetes.

Mr Lazarus says he is unable to cross the road safely and forgets the way home because of amnesia caused by a cycling accident in 1988.

He has been fighting Brighton and Hove City Council for four years for a seafront flat, which he says

would help him find his way around town, (DN January).

"The way they have treated me is appalling. They have tried to blame me for everything," he said.

His MP, Des Turner, said: "Nobody is willing to do what needs to be done, so the poor guy is going from bad to worse."

A council spokesman said it was trying to find "more suitable" accommodation, and was waiting for the results of hospital tests.

But he said there was no medical evidence to show Mr Lazarus needed to live on the seafront.

# Parking review delay

The head of a disabled motoring charity has accused the government of stalling over its review of a parking scheme for disabled people.

The government first announced it would review the blue badge scheme two years ago. Campaigners expected some firm proposals as early as last Easter. But now the government has passed its findings on to the Disabled Persons' Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC) for a further consultation. The consultation paper contains no firm proposals on the key issue of eligibility.

Douglas Campbell, executive director of the Disabled Drivers' Association, said that far too many elderly people with less serious mobility problems are being given the badges. There are over two million badges on issue at present and parking under the scheme is becoming more difficult.

Campbell claimed that the government was ducking the issue because it does not want to alienate elderly voters by tightening up eligibility.

DPTAC itself said in 1998 that only those elderly people who, but for their age,

would qualify for the higher rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance, should be eligible.

Campbell said: "I have no confidence whatsoever that the government will take any action that anywhere near equates with what is needed".

But a government spokesman said ministers would make decisions after DPTAC reports.

The deadline for responses to the consultation\* is 15 March.

\* It is available on the DPTAC website, [www.dptac.gov.uk](http://www.dptac.gov.uk) or tel: 020 7944 8011.

## New Year Honours

More than forty figures in the disability world have been recognised in the Queen's New Years Honours.

CBEs were awarded to: Paul Ennals, chief executive of the National Children's Bureau, who was a member of the Council for Disabled Children for ten years and previous director of education and employment at the Royal National Institute for the Blind; Ms Lindsay Peer, education director at the British Dyslexia Association for services to education; and Professor Carol Black, for residential and clinical care in Scleroderma and Fibrotic disorders.

OBEs were awarded to, among others, Douglas Campbell, executive director

of the Disabled Drivers' Association, Elizabeth Dendy, for services to sport for disabled people and Richard Wood, former chief executive at the British Council for Disabled People.

Mr Wood, said: "If this is for my work in the disability movement, then there have been a lot of other people in that with me. But I feel very honoured."

MBEs went to, among others, Edward Gates, chair of the Forum of Mobility Centres and chair of Sutton Shopmobility, Brian Symington, director of the Royal National Institute for Deaf People in Northern Ireland, and Janet Gray, for serving disabled water skiing. *There is a profile of Douglas Campbell on page 15.*

## Standards unmasked

Long-awaited codes of practice and conduct have been produced for social care staff and their employers in England.

The standards,\* which have been put out for a three-month consultation by the General Social Care Council (GSCC), include a requirement that managers must check police records before confirming a job applicant's appointment.

Social care staff who wish to register with the GSCC will also have to ensure they take up training, respect client confidentiality and safeguard clients from violent or abusive behaviour.

Similar consultations are taking place in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The move follows publication by the government of new national minimum standards for care homes catering for people under the age of 65 in England.

The standards say that shared rooms should be phased out by 2004 in most cases

\* [http://www.doh.gov.uk/gsccl/w\\_new.html](http://www.doh.gov.uk/gsccl/w_new.html), tel: 020 7397 5800

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DN02/02



# ME recognised

The government has published guidance confirming that ME, or Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS), is a real condition.

In the past, doctors have not taken the condition seriously and there has been a lack of medical support. There have been claims that the condition is "all in the mind".

But now, the report\*, by an Independent Working Group for the Chief Medical Officer Sir Liam Donaldson, says doctors must recognise ME as a real illness and that early diagnosis is vital.

It also says that those with severe forms of the condition are having difficulties getting care and says that they must be given the appropriate

home care when needed.

Sir Liam said: "The working group report confirms that CFS/ME is a debilitating and distressing condition affecting many people."

Chris Clark, chief executive of Action for ME, said: "The failure to take ME seriously has blighted the lives of thousands of desperately ill people. We urge the government to act on the report's recommendations, channelling resources into the NHS that have been scandalously lacking in the past."

The report recommends treatments including graded exercise and psychological therapies to treat symptoms.

\* [www.doh.gov.uk/cmof/publications.htm](http://www.doh.gov.uk/cmof/publications.htm)

# Funding sought for dogs' life



A charity providing assistance dogs to help disabled people with tasks including laundry and answering the telephone is calling for government funding for the dogs.

The charity Canine Partners for Independence is calling on the government to officially recognise the dogs as carers. It claims that if more money was put in, it would save the country money on social services and health service bills.

The charity wants the government to foot the bill for food and veterinary fees.

A spokesperson said: "The dogs go in and work with their disabled partners and at the moment get no government funding at all. Everything is funded by public donations."



Putting on a show: Minister for Disabled People Maria Eagle visited the Chicken Shed theatre company in December to meet members of the cast of its production of *Pinocchio*. The theatre company provides inclusive opportunities for disabled youngsters to take part in theatre productions.

## Death rates 'unacceptable'

People with mental health problems are six times more likely to be victims of murder or manslaughter than the general population, according to a new study.

They also have higher death rates from suicide and accidents, says the report, published in *The Lancet*.

Researchers analysed more than 70,000 people listed in the Danish Psychiatric Case Register.

They found one in four deaths were from unnatural causes. Of these people, one per cent were unlawfully killed, 73 per cent committed suicide and 26 per cent died in accidents.

The mental health charity Mind called for government action to address these "unacceptable" risks.

## French rights clarified

The French parliament has approved a draft bill that will overturn the legal right of disabled children "never to have been born".

A series of earlier court rulings had controversially found that disabled children were entitled to substantial damages if a doctor failed to tell the mother during her pregnancy that her child might have a disability.

In effect this established a precedent in French courts that disabled children "have a right not to be born" because the doctor would have denied a mother

the right to consider an abortion.

But the new bill will allow parents to sue only if a doctor causes a disability by negligence or misses an obvious sign of a severe disability during an ultrasound scan.

Some French doctors refused to carry out scans on pregnant women in the wake of the court rulings, fearing they could lead to a rash of compensation claims for children with more minor disabilities.

UNAPEI, which represents the families of French people with learning disabilities, told DN it welcomed the new bill.

## In brief

### Diabetes standards

The government has published national standards aimed at improving the care of people with diabetes\*.

They will be followed this summer by a strategy for delivering a new diabetes national service framework.

\* [www.doh.gov.uk/nsf/diabetes](http://www.doh.gov.uk/nsf/diabetes)

### No to notices

A new charity has been set up to campaign against Do Not Resuscitate notices placed on peoples' files in hospital.

The charity Action for Eileen can be contacted through Lisa MacMurdie, Action for Eileen, 143 Albany Park Avenue, Enfield, Middlesex, EN3 5NY.

## Barred man payout

A disabled man has won £2,000 compensation after a bar refused him entry because of a skin condition.

Ian Hunter, from Rochester, Kent, has the genetic disorder epidermolysis bullosa, which causes blisters on his hands, feet and neck.

He visited Bar Rio in Gillingham with a friend, but claimed he was told by a doorman: "We can't let you in with hands like that."

When he telephoned the bar manager the next day, she said other drinkers might get upset if they had to drink out of a glass he had used and might attack him because of his appearance, he claimed.

Mr Hunter, aged 21, told

DN that the incident in October 2000 had shattered his fragile confidence.

He said: "I have had panic attacks and I do not go out much anymore. If people stare at me, it panics me."

The Disability Rights Commission took up his case under the Disability Discrimination Act.

It was settled out-of-court by the owner of the bar, World View 2000, and its manager, Rachel Down.

Mr Hunter, who runs a Playstation repair business, said: "It wasn't about money. It was about showing the manager she cannot do this to people."

A spokeswoman for the bar declined to comment.

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# Education failure

A new survey has found that many education authorities are failing autistic children and their parents.

The survey of 500 parents by Parents Autism Campaign for Education (PACE)\* found there was inadequate specialist education for school-aged children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASDs), and that almost no under-fives with the condition received any education.

Parents also complained about difficulties obtaining local education authority

funding and the "confrontational" nature of the Special Educational Needs Tribunal system.

Su Thomas, chair of PACE, said the distribution of services was "incredibly patchy", although there were "some pockets of good practice".

She said: "It shows that this postcode lottery still exists throughout the country.

"There is no easy way of understanding how you access the services and how much support the child can actually get."

A Medical Research Council (MRC) review of knowledge about autism\* has found as many as six in 1,000 children have an ASD, which is far higher than previous estimates.

It also concluded that current evidence does not support controversial claims that the combined measles, mumps and rubella vaccine can cause autism.

\* The MRC report is available at [www.mrc.ac.uk](http://www.mrc.ac.uk), and the PACE report is free from PACE, tel: 020 72265525

# Drugs denied

People with schizophrenia who fail to respond to traditional drug therapy are being denied the only drug licensed to help them, a study has shown.

In an Institute of Psychiatry study, researchers found that doctors took too long to prescribe the drug clozapine for patients with treatment resistant schizophrenia (TRS).

People with TRS, in some cases, had to wait between five and 14 years.

The drug, under its licensing guidelines, should be prescribed after six months, but the researchers now say that the timescale should be reduced to three months, for people who fail to respond to traditional anti psychotic drugs.

Paul Farmer of the National Schizophrenia Fellowship said that those who are most disabled by the condition are being denied access to the drug.

He said: "For many people who are 'treatment resistant', clozapine provides the opportunity for recovering a more meaningful life".

Around 30 per cent of people diagnosed with schizophrenia are resistant to treatment.

This often results in a low quality of life for the patient, with heavy use of hospital services and a high incidence of suicide.

# News review

DN rounds up news covered in the mainstream media over the last few weeks

## Blair quiet on MMR

Prime Minister Tony Blair and his wife Cherie refused to say whether their son Leo has had the combined measles, mumps and rubella vaccine.

Downing Street said the Prime Minister believed it was "a private family matter".

Many parents have refused to let their children have the jab because of unproven fears of a link to bowel disease and autism. This has now sparked worries about a possible measles epidemic.

## Pretty takes a blow

A terminally ill woman lost another stage in her court fight for the right to be helped to die.

The House of Lords rejected an appeal by Diane Pretty, from Luton, who has motor neurone disease.

She said she would appeal to the European Court of Human Rights.

Mrs Pretty challenged the Director of Public Prosecutions' refusal to guarantee her husband would not be prosecuted if he helped her commit suicide.

## Baby parts to order

Scientists got the go-ahead to create "designer babies" to act as donors for siblings with serious genetic diseases.

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority already lets doctors screen embryos for such diseases.

But it will now also allow embryos to be tested for tissue compatibility, so stem cells from the resulting baby can be used to treat the existing sibling.

The technique will only be allowed to be used "in very rare circumstances".

## Designer swine

The prospect of pig organs being transplanted into humans moved a step closer after a Scottish biotechnology firm announced the birth of five cloned "knockout" piglets.

They were born without a gene that leads the human immune system to reject transplants of pig organs or cells.



Bus plus: Open University student Jessica Grugeon tried out the university's new access bus which will travel to the homes of disabled students to assess their individual support needs.

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# Call for improvement

The Chief Medical Officer has criticised the "serious and long-standing weaknesses" in health services for people with epilepsy.

In his annual report\*, Professor Liam Donaldson said that there should be a commitment to improve epilepsy care in England.

Among his recommendations, he called for greater awareness, a reduction in deaths from epilepsy, better training, and improved care for pregnant women with the condition.

He said five government reports since 1953 have concluded that services were "fragmented

and poorly co-ordinated", without major improvement."

Up to a fifth of epilepsy patients are misdiagnosed and receive inappropriate and unnecessary treatment, and one in 12 people with epilepsy are not referred to a specialist.

Philip Lee, chief executive of the British Epilepsy Association, welcomed the report, and said: "BEA hopes that this report will be acted upon by decision makers, unlike the previous five reports into epilepsy provision."

\* The report is at [www.doh.gov.uk/cmolanualreport2001](http://www.doh.gov.uk/cmolanualreport2001)

## In brief

### Thank you from DN

DN would like to thank readers for a fantastic response to our appeal for cash donations.

We are now also launching an appeal for used postage stamps.

Please send them to Disability Now, Freepost WD4323, London, N7 9BR.

## Legal eagle

Do you have a legal problem related to a disability issue? Would you like to know your rights? If so, please let us know.

DN will be starting an occasional series of articles called Legal Eagle next month, highlighting readers' problems and giving advice on rights.

See address and telephone number on page two.



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**Drummer girl:** A toddler who was born profoundly deaf has amazed her parents by gaining 100 per cent hearing. Emily Yeomans, of Newark, Notts, began to pick up sounds three months ago. Specialists say the kind of improvement shown by the 14-month-old is extremely rare.

## Outreach teams improve lives

An "overwhelming majority" of people with mental health problems using an assertive outreach service said it improved their quality of life, according to a new report\*.

Most people interviewed for the study felt their lives had improved since having regular contact with the Active Outreach team at Julian Housing Support (JHS), a

Norwich charity which helps adults with serious mental health problems.

Clients reported increased confidence and benefited from support with daily activities like shopping.

The government's NHS Plan says there should be 220 assertive outreach teams in place by 2003.

The schemes aim to help

severely mentally ill adults who have shunned traditional mental health services.

Workers visit clients in their own environment and try to build a relationship of trust with them.

\* *Active Outreach* is available for £7 plus 70p postage and packing from SCMH, 134-138 Borough High Street, London SE1 1LB, tel: 020 7827 8352.

## Md cash boost

A muscular dystrophy charity has won NHS funding for four new specialist centres that help people with neuromuscular conditions.

The centres at the University of Newcastle, Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford, London's Imperial College and Hammersmith Hospital offer diagnoses and advice for people with congenital muscular dystrophy, limb girdle muscular dystrophy and related conditions.

They will receive a total of £800,000 every year from the NHS, after a successful bid for funding by the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign (MDC).

The campaign also funded part of the research that has led to the discovery of a new gene which could help scientists

understand how muscular dystrophy (md) is caused.

Scientists at Hammersmith Hospital and Oxford University have found that the fukutin related-protein gene is responsible for two forms of md when it mutates.

They discovered that it can cause limb girdle and congenital muscular dystrophies.

MDC-funded research has also discovered that boys are more likely to have the most common and severe form of md, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, if they come from a deprived background.

The researchers believe the link may be due to factors that increase stress, such as poverty, smoking, poor diet and living near environmental hazards.

## Vision restored in blind rats

Scientists have restored vision in blind rats, leading to hopes of a treatment for the eye condition, age related macular degeneration (AMD).

Researchers in the study successfully transplanted genetically engineered human retinal pigment epithelial cells into rats with sight loss.

After the transplant, the rats

were able to navigate and respond to visual signs.

Professor John Greenwood, who led the study, said that the findings were a tremendous move forward in the field.

He said: "There are still a lot of issues around the research, but we are hoping that within five years clinical trials will begin".

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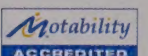
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## Taken for a ride

Three London councils have turned down an estimated £150,000 a year each to improve the Taxicard service for disabled people.

An extra £5m a year for the subsidised taxi service – guaranteed until at least April 2004 – was promised by Mayor Ken Livingstone from the Transport for London (TfL) budget.

He wants to use the money to end Taxicard's "postcode lottery" and standardise the service in different boroughs.

But Wandsworth, Bromley and Havering councils have all declined their share, although Havering say discussions with TfL are continuing.

Wandsworth said that the new money would come from the London boroughs in the first place and then be returned to them by the Mayor.

This was denied by TfL and the Greater London Authority (GLA).

Wandsworth and Bromley also said there was no long-term guarantee for the extra cash.

A GLA spokesman confirmed the Mayor could only guarantee funding until his term of office ends in 2004.

Sean Thompson, director of DaRT, which represents disabled travellers in London, said he believed Conservative Wandsworth had rejected the money for "political reasons".

"It is outrageous that disabled people should be used as a political football," he said.

## NI gets upgraded

New technology to help disabled people use the internet and CD-ROMs is being installed in every public library in Northern Ireland.

The £300,000 project will improve access for people with visual, physical and learning impairments.

Each of 124 libraries will have a touch screen, adapted keyboard, children's keyboard, large trackerball, screen magnification and speech synthesis software.

And all five library boards in Northern Ireland will also have four Braille readers, a Braille printer with translation software and four CCTV units to magnify books.

The scheme is part of the Electronic Libraries Project for Northern Ireland, with funding by the department of arts, culture and leisure.

BRYAN ROSS



Scotland's Yard: Kids celebrated the 15th anniversary of Edinburgh's Yard play centre for disabled children late last year.

## Dispute over route

A council has been told to review the safety of a scheme that created a cycle route on a pedestrian promenade, after a complaint by a campaigner for visually impaired people.

Hastings Borough Council converted its promenade to a cyclist and pedestrian route without going through the proper legal processes.

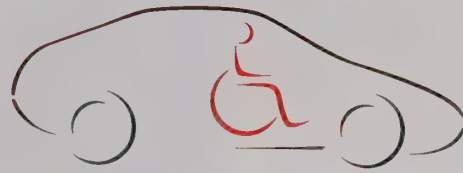
Local Government Ombuds-

man Jerry White ruled that the council should consult people with mobility and visual impairments about possible improvements to the scheme.

It should also ensure the cycle track complied with the law and pay £500 to the man who made the complaint, who has not been named for legal reasons.

The council said it was "disappointed" by White's decision.

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# A bitter pill to swallow

Disturbing methods of treating older people in care settings are common practice. John Pring hears a first-hand account and looks into what can be done

**W**hen Barbara Pointon left her husband Malcolm at the hospital for some respite care, he could walk several miles a day, despite having Alzheimer's disease.

When she returned a fortnight later to pick him up, he couldn't stand, his eyes were glazed over and his clothes were soaked in urine.

She soon discovered why – staff had increased his dose of the anti-convulsive drug Epilin, and started him on four new drugs, including an anti-psychotic and a sedative.

"I was so angry," says Mrs Pointon. "I had handed over a fit and active Malcolm and here he was deprived of his mobility because of over-medication."

On the advice of an Alzheimer's Society outreach worker, she asked for him to be taken off all the new drugs.

The hospital agreed, and four days later he was able to walk again.

This type of over-medication of older people in care settings has now been highlighted by the Liberal Democrat MP Paul Burstow.

Last month, he published a

report\* that suggested more than 80,000 people in nursing and care homes are kept sedated with anti-psychotic drugs for no good medical reason.

These drugs reduce psychotic experiences such as delusions and hallucinations, but also act as a sedative.

Staff often use this "chemical cosh" simply to make it easier to cope with residents who have become restless, uncooperative or depressed, rather than trying to discover the root causes of their behaviour, says Burstow. He blames "serious shortages of specialist staff".

His report followed the launch of a new awareness campaign by the older people's charity Counsel and Care, which called on care staff to minimise the use of restraint.

And a study by Professor Mary Marshall, reported in the *British Medical Journal* in August, found that carers looking after people with dementia – who make up three-quarters of those in long-term care – need better training and support.

Dr Adrian Treloar, a consultant and senior lecturer in old age psychiatry at Memorial



Back together: Barbara Pointon now looks after her husband Malcolm at home in Cambridgeshire.

Hospital, London, believes medication of people with dementia should be monitored by specialists, and the dosage kept as low as possible.

"The National Service Framework for Older People (a government programme to improve care) requires specialist input in such patients and I believe such services need to be further developed," he says.

Although home managers defend themselves by explaining that GPs are the ones prescribing the drugs, campaigners say care staff could do much more to look for alternatives to the "chemical cosh".

It was a problem Barbara Pointon was to confront a second time as she struggled to look after her husband.

When she was no longer able to cope with the wandering, the

feet," says Mrs Pointon.

After she complained, the dose was finally reduced and staff agreed to ask her before changing his medication again. Within a week, he was able to sit in a chair.

Since March 2000, Mr Pointon has been living back home in south Cambridgeshire with his wife.

"His mobility has gone," she says, "but it has gone of its own accord and not because of the medication."

But the problem is not simply one of over-medication. Many homes find other ways of restraining older people, claim campaigners.

Some only heat small parts of the building, to keep clients in one or two rooms all day.

Others remove residents' walking aids, lock exits on

specialist staff, the care is excellent and the drugs are minimised."

Les Bright, deputy chief executive of Counsel and Care, says: "There needs to be a constant reviewing of the balance between enabling people to be safe and secure in the environment they live in, alongside the opportunity to take as many risks as are reasonable."

A spokeswoman for the Department of Health said the excessive use of drugs was "unacceptable", and it was considering referring the issue to the national Institute for Clinical Excellence.

The heads of both the Registered Nursing Home Association and the National Care Homes Association failed to comment.

Meanwhile, Mrs Pointon has reached her own conclusions. "My rule of thumb has been to keep the medication as low as you can get away with," she says. "I think the key is training staff on how to deal with challenging behaviours."

\*Paul Burstow's report *Keep Taking the Medicine* is available on his website at [www.zyworld.com/paulburstow](http://www.zyworld.com/paulburstow) Counsel and Care's guide for care homes, *Residents Taking Risks: Minimising the Use of Restraint*, £5, tel: 020 7241 8555, or free from the website [www.counselandcare.org.uk](http://www.counselandcare.org.uk) The charity will also be organising four conferences on the subject in Surrey (30 Jan), Bristol (14 Feb), York (27 Feb) and Edinburgh (7 March). Places cost £82.25. To book call 01904 709706.

**"My rule of thumb has been to keep the medication as low as you can get away with. I think the key is training staff on how to deal with challenging behaviours."**

loss of social skills, and the aggression that stemmed from his frustration, he was admitted to a nursing home.

Within a few months, his body became so stiff and rigid that he had to spend most of the day lying on his bed.

Mrs Pointon discovered that a consultant's recommendation to halve his dose of Epilin – because his weight had dropped – had been ignored three times in six months.

"The GP clearly colluded with the staff, who obviously felt Malcolm was easier to handle if he was off his

both sides, install handles which make it difficult to open doors, or make inappropriate use of new technologies such as closed-circuit cameras and sophisticated alarms and buzzers.

Julia Cream, head of public affairs for the Alzheimer's Society, says: "The good homes are using new technologies well but there is lots and lots of bad practice out there where people are restricted in their freedom, cannot go outside and have no choice where they go at all.

"Where homes do have enough good quality, trained,

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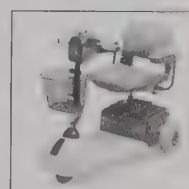
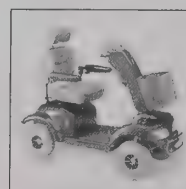
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**n o n s e n s e v e h i c l e c o n v e r s i o n s**



# A wheel honour

Douglas Campbell, executive director of The Disabled Drivers' Association, was awarded an OBE in the New Year Honours, but that doesn't mean he'll stop campaigning, says John Pring



**T**he letter that informed Douglas Campbell about his award was

accompanied by a form to return to the Prime Minister's office. It included a box to tick to say whether or not he would accept an OBE.

"I ticked yes, then I checked three times that I had ticked yes," says Campbell. "Then I checked that I had ticked yes on the photocopy of the form!"

Campbell, the 53 year-old executive director of The Disabled Drivers' Association (DDA), is clearly delighted with the OBE he received in the New Year Honours.

It is the chief topic of conversation during the string of calls he receives during our interview at the bungalow in Milton Keynes he shares with Janet, his wife of 27 years.

for disabled people".

She points to his determination, but also his pragmatism, which allows him "to work with, rather than against, those whose hearts and minds he is trying to change".

Campbell says he just hates getting bored. "I like challenges. There are so many people that don't know about the solutions out there.

"The other thing that drives me is making people aware of the needs of disabled people, so they then start thinking about them as a matter of routine."

But he worries about the lack of "young blood" coming through to take up the fight from the disability campaigners of the 70s and 80s, like himself, who "gave governments bloody noses".

**'I found solving mobility problems for disabled people and campaigning far more rewarding than agreeing someone's tax liability'**

Campbell says he was "stunned and thrilled" by the award, which he believes is mainly due to the work he has put in on many committees set up by government departments on access, mobility and disabled driving.

He is also a trustee of the Forum of Mobility Centres and Mobility Choice, which runs the Mobility Roadshow, and he is DN's motoring correspondent.

Ann Frye, head of the mobility and inclusion unit at the Department for Transport, calls Campbell an "outstanding advocate and campaigner

"The disabled community has achieved such a lot over the last 50 years that maybe they don't see there are still battles to win," he says.

The Baywatch campaign to fight the abuse of disabled parking bays, co-sponsored by DN, is one of those battles.

Another is to encourage more disabled people to use the Motability scheme, which he hopes will continue its trend towards greater openness.

He is also concerned at how few disabled people have achieved positions of political influence. "We only have one wheelchair-using member of

the House of Commons. There should be enough wheelchair users so that the Commons needs its own man to pump up the tyres."

Campbell has used a wheelchair since he contracted polio at the age of four, and spent 18 months in hospital.

His subsequent educational experience was patchy – a mix of special and mainstream schools and home tutors.

Despite a decent academic record, none of his teachers suggested university, so he found a position as a trainee accountant.

He qualified in 1972, but in seven years with his first employer, he only once left the office to visit a client, because "it was an assumption that the best way to overcome lack of access was simply not to tackle it".

He eventually set up his own accountancy business in Milton Keynes, but it increasingly took a back seat to his voluntary work.

Campbell had first joined the DDA as a 17-year-old, after spotting a poster for the charity on the wall of the government office where he was being assessed for an invalid tricycle.

But he didn't become seriously involved for another two years, when a more powerful trike enabled him to attend branch meetings in Northants (he eventually transferred from the trike to an adapted car in 1971).

His accountancy skills came in useful and the branch sent him as a delegate to the annual conference.

"The association was going through a fairly rough patch and I would turn up with my company law textbook and say 'you can't do that'. As is the way with most organisations, if you have a trouble-maker, you vote them onto the national committee."

He was first elected chairman in 1975, at the age of 27, and has been prominent in the organisation, and in government circles, ever since.

In 1995, he applied for the post of executive director. "I found solving mobility problems for disabled people and campaigning far more rewarding than agreeing someone's tax liability," he says.

The OBE came at the end of a year which saw the failure of the latest attempt to merge the

DDA with the Disabled Drivers' Motor Club. He is philosophical about the breakdown.

"I was disappointed that the merger didn't take place, but this wasn't the first attempt and I doubt if it will be the last."

Campbell is striving for a world where it is just as easy for a disabled person from Milton Keynes to pop down to Selfridges for the sale as it is for anyone else. He insists this goal can be achieved.

And he is determined to use the OBE to open some of those doors that have remained stubbornly closed to him.

The ones belonging to organisations that see a letter from a disability charity and automatically throw it in the bin assuming it is a begging letter.

"I will use it to further the campaigns if I have to," he says. "I hope it will get people to listen to me who perhaps in the past would not."

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# Simply the best?

Is the new model Chrysler Entervan the best wheelchair accessible vehicle out there? Conrad Hodgkinson and Christine Barton take it for a ride

**M**y partner Christine Barton took delivery of one of the first Chrysler Entervans in the UK. One month later, we're beginning to see how it holds up against the competition.

Christine's requirements are very specific. She's a wheelchair user with no independent mobility. However, she maintains her independence and a busy

professional life through the use of technology and personal assistance. She's a member of the new General Social Care Council, set up by the government to regulate the social care workforce, so high-quality, accessible transport is essential for her regular trips to London.

We previously owned a VW Caravelle, an excellent vehicle, well built, reliable, economic



Acres of space: Christine inside the Entervan

(2.4 litre diesel engine) and reasonably spacious. But it had disadvantages, particularly as Christine's condition progressed.

Access for the wheelchair was via a rear mounted wheelchair lift. This worked well, but the Caravelle is quite high and Christine never felt entirely safe. The problem that could never be resolved satisfactorily was common to most adapted vehicles – the wheelchair passenger has to sit in the back.

So, we wanted a modern, comfortable vehicle with ramp rather than lift access, air-conditioning,

more headroom, and the ability to drive any of Christine's three wheelchairs directly into position.

The Entervan is based on the Chrysler Grand Voyager. Like most people, we chose the V6 engine 3.3 LX with automatic transmission, leaving maximum unencumbered floor space for a wheelchair passenger or driver.

Our vehicle was supplied by Steering Developments of Hemel Hempstead, who also supply and fit some very sophisticated adaptations, particularly for disabled drivers. However, the main part of the conversion, lowering the floor 10in to give total headroom of 58in, involves a trip to Autoadapt in Sweden.

What makes the real difference to this conversion is space. There's acres of it, enough for three wheelchairs. Access is via a side ramp, and there's enough room inside to allow easy manoeuvring of the wheelchair into the passenger position. To make access even

need when we go away. It's hard to describe the sheer pleasure of being able to drive into a motorway service station knowing that Chris can join me inside instead of me trekking in and out of the vehicle with trays of coffee and sandwiches.

So our answer to the question "Is this the best wheelchair accessible vehicle available?" would probably be, "It is for us!"

And not just us. Joan Anderton from Maidstone in Kent drives in her wheelchair and has owned her Entervan since March. "The Chrysler is fantastic," she says. "It's changed my life."

"It used to take 15 minutes to get into my old car," Jane says. "And then I needed a second person to hoist my wheelchair into the back. Now, I can just nip out whenever I want. I can even stay late at the office...!"

"The Chrysler has already improved my quality of life," Christine says. "I can't imagine

*"It used to take 15 minutes to get into my old car. And then I needed a second person to hoist my wheelchair into the back. Now, I can just nip out whenever I want. I can even stay late at the office...!"*

more straightforward, our Chrysler has optional lowering suspension. We've chosen manual tie-downs, but an automatic system is available.

On the road, the Entervan is incredibly quiet compared with the Caravelle, and even if it isn't exactly a ball of fire, the performance is more than adequate.

Then there are the add-ons: computer (best not to look at the fuel consumption), CD autochanger, air conditioning, cruise control, etc.

The central seats have had to go to create the space, but an "easy-out" passenger seat and the bench rear seat remain.

There's enough space behind the rear seat to stow all the luggage and equipment we

how I managed for so long. What stopped me was cost. Our Chrysler works out at just over £38,000. We've had to take out another mortgage to pay for it."

Peter Roake of Steering Developments comments: "The majority of people who buy these vehicles use insurance payments that they have received following road accidents, and some of these can be pretty large."

Rightly so, but this is not the case for most people. And, as the Chrysler is not Motability approved, cost alone will put this impressive vehicle beyond most disabled people's reach. *Steering Developments, tel: 01442 212918, e-mail: enquiries@steeringdevelopments.co.uk*

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Style on a budget: Mike assesses the interior of the "all new" Ford

# Fiesta to the test

With its ample space and easy handling, the Ford Fiesta has always been a favourite for disabled motorists. Now, after more than a decade, it's had an overhaul. Mike Rogers takes it for a spin

**F**ord's little Fiesta hatchback has been around since 1976. This has given it time, Ford claims, to become the UK's favourite small car.

The 2001 Frankfurt Motor Show saw the launch of the "all-new Fiesta" which will go on sale in Britain during the spring in 5-door form, with a 3-door model to be made available in the autumn.

In the Fiesta's long life, the last time a new version was launched was in 1989, so this latest version has been eagerly awaited.

I was invited by Ford to test this latest model in Malaga, southern Spain. The trip was welcome indeed, as it gave me a brief respite from the foggy, frosty British winter.

So, what about the "all-new" Fiesta? To begin with, it has been restyled. Not startlingly, but it shows a few touches of the Ford Focus. It is also bigger than the present Fiesta. It may not seem so at first glance, but as soon as you sit in it, the extra space is obvious.

The boot capacity is also impressive – quite capable of accepting a folded manual wheelchair along with luggage or shopping.

A big aim of the redesign has been to prioritise economy, and initial cost estimates put it in the same price bracket as current vehicles. There should be an entry model on the road at about £7,500, with top range models closer to £12,000. In

Motability terms, this should mean no advance payments on the Contract Hire Scheme for lower cost models, and in the low hundreds for the higher spec versions.

While driving in the Spanish mountains, the models under test performed admirably and gave good fuel economy. It's not damning to say this is a good general-purpose motor car – the Fiesta has always been one.

I was able to drive two versions – the entry model with a 1.3 Duratec 8-valve petrol engine, and the 1.4 turbo diesel model. Two other petrol vehicles complete the range.

Modern diesels are such an improvement over earlier ones. They run quietly, to the point where it's difficult to tell if you have a petrol or diesel unit under the bonnet – and you get the modern diesel's remarkable fuel economy.

The petrol 1.3 engine returns a stated combined miles per gallon (mpg) of 48.7, which is pretty credible, while the 1.4 diesel model returns a remarkable 62.8 mpg. It's no surprise that the new generation of turbo diesels are becoming so popular: the clattery smoky oil burners of old have gone forever.

The three-door new Fiesta allows easy entry, which is an important factor for motorists with a disability.

Once you're in, the seats are comfortable and supportive with easy adjustment, and all-round vision is very good,

supported by fairly high-set seats. Bigger rear windows help, as does a low body waistline. The controls are well-placed and the steering wheel is adjustable, which many drivers will welcome.

The dashboard is pleasant

enough, if a bit plastic, and the instrument panel is simple, with a clear speedometer and reversible indicator dials.

However, the digital readouts are not so easy to see. I found the dim liquid crystal displays hard to read without squinting at the panel.

For more elderly drivers and those like me who use different specs for reading and driving, it would have been helpful if the digital readouts were backlit or illuminated.

That goes for the clock as well. On our Spanish test runs, we needed to navigate, and that meant constant reference to the mileometer readings. I was doing a lot of peering at the dashboard, which I didn't

welcome while driving on a winding mountain road. You never know if an ageing Spanish lorry might suddenly appear, lumbering towards you!

However, the new Fiesta, with its enhanced chassis, performed well on these roads, and the ride and road holding should make it a leader in its class.

While it's clearly been built to a budget, this is a great little car, whether you're pushing it up Spanish mountains or popping off to your local supermarket.

With its excellent handling, I have every reason to believe that the New Fiesta will hold its high place in the rankings as a fine, practical, economy car. *Ford customer enquiry line, tel: 08457 111888*

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ILLUSTRATIONS: CLARE CURTIS

# Letters to the Editor

Send your letters to the editor  
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6 Market Road, London N7 9PW,  
minicom: 020 7619 7332,  
fax: 020 7619 7331,  
e-mail: editor@disabilitynow.org.uk



## Labour doesn't care about us

Thank you for including the list of benefits for April 2002 (*DN*, January). But is there a misprint?

I cannot believe that the Incapacity Benefit is going to rise by only £1.20 per week (and this is taxed), considering that the Retirement Pension is being raised by £3 a week.

Also, my Disability Living Allowance is to rise by only 95p.

So my disability benefit is going up by a whopping 1.7 per cent, but the pensions will rise by 4.2 per cent.

I have been disabled from the age of 13 and I worked from the age of 15 to 55 when I could not work any more because of

the severity of my condition.

I paid taxes for 40 years, but I am now treated like a beggar and given hand outs (1 per cent increase, which is also taxed) by this government.

**Allen Bergson**

Pinner, Middx

There was a tremendous uproar when the government raised the state Retirement Pension by only 75p.

Retired people were, quite rightly, angered by this tiny increase and large numbers were fit and able enough to march and arrange various other forms of protest to

display their outrage.

Many disabled people are not in a position to protest because they are too ill or in too much pain, while others are hampered by inadequate public transport to get to such protests.

I may be overly cynical, but I believe the government has forgotten disabled people because we cannot make ourselves as visible to the public as other groups can.

One thing is certain, the Labour Party can no longer be regarded as the party that cares for disabled people.

**Margaret Lees**

Newmilns, East Ayrshire

## Watch out for those Florida parking regulations

We also visited Florida and were told that the blue/orange badges were accepted (*DN*, January). Well, they're not.

The US embassy here said parking restrictions vary

from state to state.

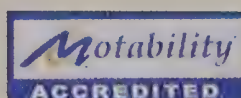
In Florida, an officer explained that under no circumstances do they accept the European badges. We were directed to a 'TAG' station

(a vehicle licensing office), and I paid around \$20 for a temporary disabled permit which bears no resemblance to ours.

**Liz Chapman**

Hove, East Sussex.

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## Go back to free care

Your article, "Charge change" (*DN*, January) welcoming the disregard of earnings in charges for home care, hides a bigger truth. These vital services were once free. Charging by councils is discretionary and is widely opposed. A few councils don't charge.

The new guidelines entrench the taking of money from people's disability benefits. These benefits were never intended to subsidise statutory services. Women have had their partner's income taken into account – a recipe for relationship breakdown and violence. And charges are taken at source from Direct Payments to people who employ their own carers, driving down carers' wages or impoverishing the user, setting us up against each other.

Intrusive means-testing claims that "income will be maintained at income support plus 25 per cent". This is shameful given how inadequate such levels are for anyone; the additional needs and expenses people with disabilities often have; and its disproportionate effect on older women, the majority of users. So this is all we can expect after a lifetime of waged and unwaged caring work?

Councils still have a legal duty to provide for people with disabilities in need, regardless of payment or immigration status, and everyone is legally entitled to make a financial hardship case. In Scotland, personal care is free to pensioners. Why not to all of us in Scotland, England and Wales?

**Kate Adams**, Incapacity Action, incapacityaction@onetel.net.uk

**Claire Glasman**, WinVisible (women with visible and invisible disabilities), crossroadswomenscentre@compuserve.com

## DN gave me ideas

I have ms and found that your articles with their stimulating ideas encouraged me to take up

creative writing. I have already had work published in a Cardiff magazine.

**Mrs D Llewellyn**

Llansamlet, Swansea

## PC pulse

by Dan Batten

**Baker's loaf stale**

Congratulations to Danny Baker for his piece about Leeds footballer Lee Bowyer. Writing on Bowyer's perceived violent state of mind and body,



he called him "insane", and adds: "his excelling in (football) is an actual side effect of the malady". Anyone who has seen the film *Rain Man* (whose lead character has autism) will "have a better picture of how this works", he says.

So Baker is an expert on autism? I thought Neanderthal man would have been more his field, hanging out with Gazza.

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*Dream scheme* is a new, bimonthly feature highlighting best practice services to disabled people

# Centre stage

The new West Lothian Ability Centre opened in November to provide multiple services for disabled people in one place. Rod Hermeston pays a visit

**T**he one thing you won't see at West Lothian Ability Centre is a dozen disabled people dozing off in front of the TV.

Yes, it houses a day service, but there is a lot more to it than that.

Want general disability information? Try Disability West Lothian. Need information about council services? Try the Council Information Service. The centre also includes the local council's housing office as well as a Community Rehabilitation and Brain Injury Service.

Then there is West Lothian Ability Day Service, which provides for disabled people at the centre and in the community.

The beauty of the fully accessible £1.7 million centre, which opened in Livingston in November, is that it allows disabled people to use so many services in one visit, says Marlyn Young (*right*), manager of the Ability Day Service. She adds: "It offers real opportunity for different agencies to work together for the benefit of clients".

"Just the other week, a person with a physical disability was visiting the Council Information Service, noticed Disability West Lothian and went to them for information. Then they asked me if that person could be involved in the Day Service."

The Ability Day Service replaced a large day centre at Winchburgh.

A small number of clients are given rehabilitation in the new centre, which helps them develop independent living skills, like cooking.

The Day Service also offers 10 outreach schemes with small groups of people being catered for closer to home. Clients develop a 12-week plan for what they want to do as a group.

Client Harry Inglis, 58, who has multiple sclerosis, says: "I'm in favour of the new system. It is based on a smaller group of people and you can have more interaction. At Winchburgh, if you were feeling down you could be left on your own."

The Day Service has also

developed a brokerage scheme to help disabled individuals access mainstream activities in the community, such as college courses or craftwork.

Ms. Young says this is pivotal for increasing integration in the community and personal progress for clients. They can also volunteer or do work experience.

Some clients miss the old set-up. Lesley Bird, 34, misses the wheelchair dancing she used to do at Winchburgh, while Lorraine Castle, 42, who has multiple sclerosis, is concerned

that she has to make her own way to outreach.

But Gordon Jones, 42, who has a spinal injury, enjoys outreach. "The group decides what it wants to do. It could be a visit from the police or going out for a meal." He has started a cookery course at college through brokerage.

There are also relaxation classes, and Oatridge Agricultural College has provided floristry and pet-care sessions at the outreaches.

Moves are afoot to provide more college places at the newly-built West Lothian College. At present, 12 clients are attending and the college has offered 12 more places and learning support.

Gordon Mungall, chair of Disability West Lothian, says: "Not everybody likes change. As people get used to the new set up, they will come to enjoy it more because they will be more involved in their local community rather than being



**Top dogs:** Outreach client Andrew takes part in a pet care session with one-year-old labrador Harvey.

Elizabeth Crooks (*right*), 63, who has survived three strokes, does pottery work at a local company, Beautiful Ceramics, through the brokerage scheme.

She says "The first thing I made was a dinosaur for my grandson. I really enjoy it."

She likes the fact that the clients have lots of choice over what they want to do.



isolated in a day centre. It is quite a unique concept."

The Day Service sets targets for clients and placements within the centre or on outreach are for set periods.

Some may progress from services in the centre to outreach and brokerage. This can allow them to progress to community based activities. So new clients will be able to enter the system as others leave.

But Ms Young says: "Before

anyone leaves an element of the service, they'll have a clear idea what they are moving onto."

Clients who do not wish to leave the outreach would only lose their place if there were no groups for them to attend when other members of their own group moved on. But this is unlikely, she says.

Obviously some are wary of the new system, but others welcome it. And there is a sense of excitement about the future.



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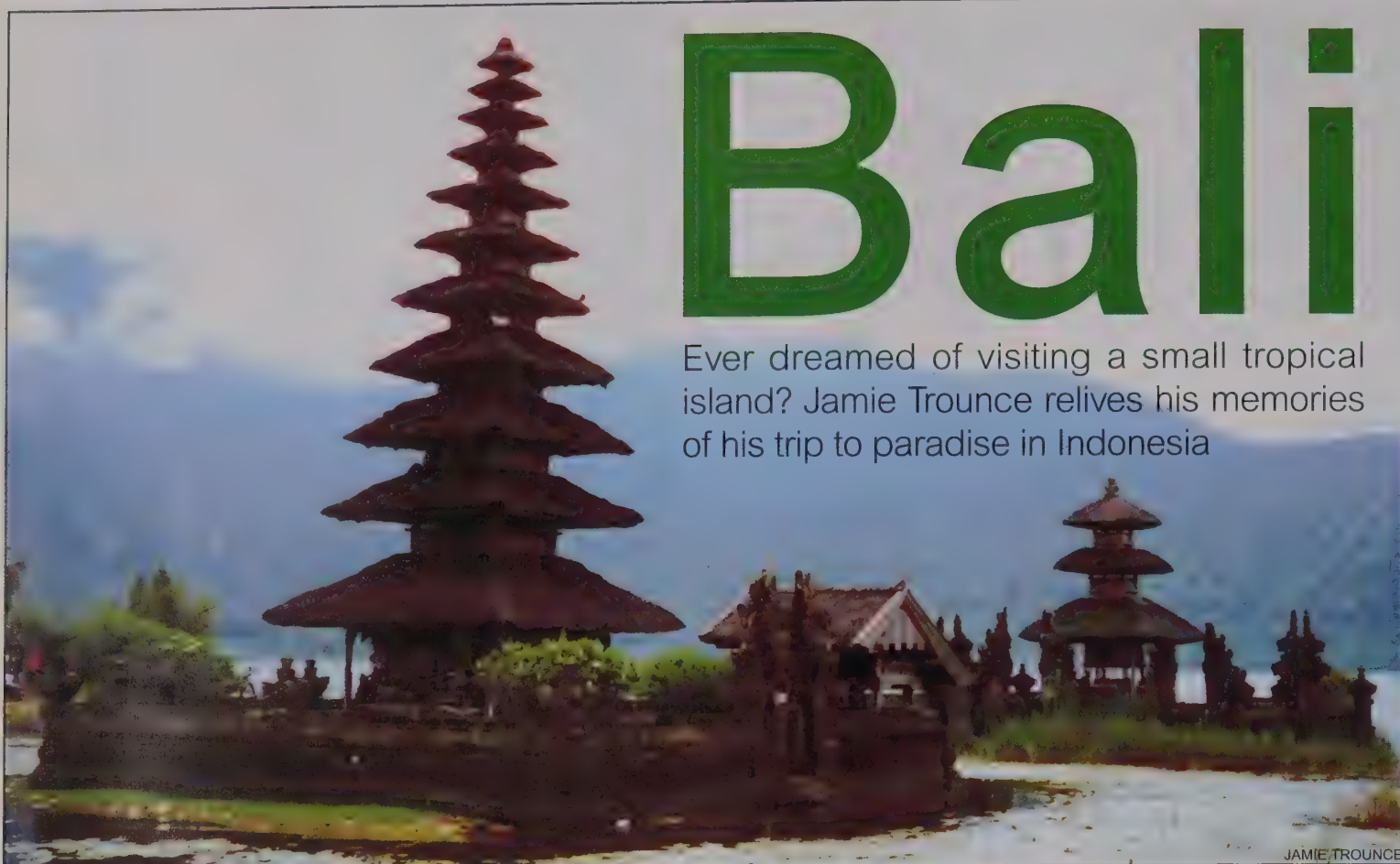
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# Bali

Ever dreamed of visiting a small tropical island? Jamie Trounce relives his memories of his trip to paradise in Indonesia

It was the middle of January, and the middle of what seemed like a very long and very cold winter. My brother, Christian, and I decided that what we both needed was a holiday. We had always talked about going to Bali, and after several weeks of searching the Internet, we eventually found a flight with Garuda Indonesia Airlines for £440, departing in March.

After a 15 hour flight we finally touched down in Bali. It was about 7pm local time when we wandered out of the airport. The sky was already dark and the air was hot and

sticky. We hailed a taxi and headed towards Ubud, a town in the middle of the island, and Bali's cultural centre. Through the taxi windows and the darkness, we made out small roadside restaurants, dimly lit and mostly empty, and temples, statues, and colourfully dressed people.

After about an hour we arrived in Ubud. We'd done some research on the plane and had an idea of where we were going to stay, but the map in our guide book seemed to bear little resemblance to the streets in front of us. The taxi dropped us off on the main

street. We hoisted our backpacks onto our backs and set off into the night. Just then the heavens opened and we experienced our first monsoon – welcome to Bali!

The next morning after a much needed night's sleep and hot shower we were ready to explore our new home. Our day started perfectly. The guest house we had eventually found the night before was a series of small, individual bungalows set in beautiful cascading tropical gardens. Our bungalow even had its own veranda,

where we now sat, eating a breakfast of toast, tea and tropical fruit.

We headed towards the main market, an amazingly colourful, busy and exciting experience, with so many different sights, sounds and smells. The flower stalls with their bursts of colour, and the food stalls with their intoxicating and delicious aromas. Our thoughts soon turned to lunch! The food in Bali tastes even more delicious than it smells, and after a meal of fish satay and coconut

scented rice I knew this was going to be a great holiday.

Next on our itinerary was the Monkey Forest, a holy forest named after the large troupe of monkeys that live there. We went in armed with a huge bunch of tiny bananas, and were instantly mobbed by five monkeys, all jumping up trying to grab a piece of fruit from our hands. The forest was an incredibly atmospheric place, with huge trees, vine creepers, and old, half crumbling temples, statues and bridges hidden in the undergrowth.

We spent a further two days in Ubud, exploring the markets, the craft shops, the temples and the restaurants. In the evenings we'd sit at a roadside restaurant, drinking beer and watching the people come and go. The people in their full ceremonial gear, on their way to the religious ceremonies which are part of daily life in Bali, were an amazing sight, as were the women dressed in colourful sarongs, balancing huge towers of tropical fruit on their heads, and men in white ceremonial suits.

Next was a ferry journey to the tiny island of Gili Trawangan, just northwest of Lombok (Bali's neighbouring island). It was a three hour bumpy bus ride to the port where our ferry was waiting, a huge rusting hulk of a ship, spilling over with people. We battled our way inside, and looked around for an area of floor that we could claim as

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Gili Trawangan, the beautiful, tiny island off Lombok.

our own, but it seemed that every inch of floor space had already been claimed. People were fast asleep, sprawled across their luggage, and families sat round their picnics.

We eventually opted for the roof, which seemed remarkably free of people, and after 20 minutes in the scorching Indonesian sun we knew why. The crossing took two hours, by which time, even after liberal application of sun tan cream, we were looking very red and burnt.

It took a further bus ride through Lombok, the next door neighbour from Bali, and a short boat crossing before we arrived in Gili Trawangan, a tiny island only a mile in diameter. From the minute we stepped off the boat, we knew the long haul had been worth it. The beach was covered by fine golden/white sand, fringed with palm trees, and the sea was a crystal clear aqua marine. Behind the palms was a string of little guest houses, consisting of a

restaurant at the front and a few bungalows at the back. We found one which looked good, checked in, dropped our bags in our room, and headed straight to the beach for a swim – fantastic!

The next six lazy days on Gili Trawangan were spent sun bathing and snorkelling, exploring the beautiful coral reefs, spotting the tropical fish, and even a sea turtle. Our days were punctuated only by mealtimes and deciding which of the little beach side restaurants we were going to eat at. In the evenings some of the restaurants would bring their tables and chairs down onto the beach, and we'd eat on the beach by candle light, with the sound of the sea gently lapping at the shore.

It was difficult to drag ourselves away from Gili Trawangan, but we needed to get back to Bali. We spent three more days in Lovina at the northern tip of the island. Then the dreaded moment arrived – time to go home.

On the flight back, we were both lost in our own thoughts, thinking back on what had been a truly amazing holiday, and one that neither of us would ever forget. Bali is definitely one of those places that makes you want to hold onto your memories of it forever. *Total cost for two weeks per person (bar flight) £200-250.*

**Holy Monkey Forest in Ubud** (far left), Jamie and Christian (left) and a religious festival near Lovina (below).



# Steam heat

If you've ever wondered about getting away to a spa hotel in an exotic locale, ask Jackie Scott. She has visited two, and with places like them, you'll never want to leave your hotel



**S**pa hotels have become increasingly popular in recent years. I have visited two, in Finland and Sardinia, and found them both fully accessible. A holiday in a spa hotel offers the choice of relaxation treatments and therapies to make you feel pampered. You can include a stay in a spa hotel as either part of a beach holiday or a tour itinerary in itself.

Finland has many spa hotels of varying styles and sizes. The Spa Hotel Kunnopaiikka is in the town of Kuopio, about 430km north of Helsinki.

Contrary to popular belief, Finland is a country that can be enjoyed all year round. While the summers in Finland are short, they can be quite warm.

Lake Kallavesi is close to the hotel and the crystal clear waters are very tempting. You can have a sauna and rejuvenating swim at the lakeside, but in the winter you'll need to cut an ice-hole first!

The hotel's sauna and pool complex consist of six Finnish saunas, two Turkish baths, and a heated swimming pool with water massage stations and cold water pool. You can have a classic massage, various herbal baths and treatment packs, from hydrotherapy to beauty treatment.

The hotel has various ways of helping people with disabilities enter the pool. It has a pool hoist, wheelchair lift and ramp. There are 12 physiotherapists on the staff as well as a number of medically qualified personnel. They can cater to all diets and a lot of the food is prepared with local produce.

It is a place where you can have invigorating treatments or a totally relaxing break with the knowledge that adapted transport is available everywhere.

The island of Sardinia (which belongs to Italy) is in the Mediterranean, immediately

south of Corsica. The summers are very hot while the winters are mild. The capital, Cagliari, has a seven mile stretch of sandy beach. Even though the island has become increasingly popular with tourists, it still retains its original charm.

The 4-star Sofitel Thalassa Timi Ama is about an 1 hour drive from Cagliari airport and about 5 minutes from the village of Villasimius.

This luxury hotel, built in the style of a Moorish palace, has only been open for 2 years. It has an outdoor pool and there is a saltwater lake between the sea and beach. There is an indoor pool, an outdoor amphitheatre, and a private beach with restaurant

and tennis courts.

The nearby lake provides the salt water for the Thalassa treatments. These include various seawater massage treatments.

The hotel is totally accessible, and ideal for anyone who is happy to rent a car so as to satisfy all their transport needs.

*Jackie Scott is managing director of Can Be Done, which arranges tours and holidays for people with disabilities, tel: 020 8907 4200*

*A seven-night stay at the Spa Hotel Kunnopaiikka, is £430 per person, excluding flights (two person share).*

*A seven-night stay at the Sofitel Thalassa Timi Ama starts at £495 per person, excluding flights (two person share).*



Make it to the Finnish line: you can have a facial treatment in the Finnish health spa (top left), or relax at a hotel in Sardinia (above).

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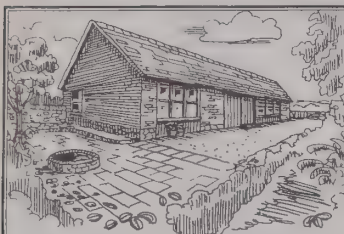
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# A Tunisian winter



TUNISIAN NATIONAL TOURIST OFFICE/LEONARDO

Here comes the sun: tourists can ride camels in the desert (above), or visit a cultural festival (below).

Warm weather, cheap prices and outgoing people have kept Phil and Barbara Holmes coming back to Tunisia every winter

**T**aking off to Tunisia in the winter is by far the most cost-effective way of using our money. We save on heating, lighting and food while out of the UK, and the winter prices in Tunisia are so low (with the exception of Christmas and New Year) that regular visits in the period from November to March are always economical.

With the exception of routine everyday mobility expenses, most of our combined DLA mobility component is spent on going to Tunisia.

Apart from financial incentives, there are several other reasons that make Tunisia worth visiting in the winter.

First of all, there is the weather. During the rainy season it is always mild, with occasional cloudy or rainy days. Most of the time you can wear jeans and a T-shirt, but

available and cheap to use.

Monastir is the main holiday airport in Tunisia at the moment. Apart from the familiar problem of queuing, it provides lift access to lounges and an ambulift on and off the aircraft, supported by a dedicated care team. The only

problem we have experienced is that of other passengers – spaces in the ambulift can be limited.

During the day in Tunisia, there are many things to do. From the simplicity of just relaxing by the pool and being waited on, to historical visits to virtually anywhere in the



**'Over the past 16 years of going to Tunisia, we have never experienced any discrimination in terms of our disabilities – apart from other tourists.'**

nights require a jacket for going out. Once the sun sets, it gets chilly quickly.

For a developing country, Tunisia tries very hard to offer access to all. Many public buildings have wheelchair ramps of sorts, although they may be at very steep angles! Trains and buses are very difficult for anyone with even a minor disability to use, and doorways and steps are difficult to manoeuvre. But taxis will go to great lengths to help you out, and there are plenty

country, the choices are wide open. The historical sites vary from Matmata, where many movies (*Star Wars*, *The English Patient*) have been shot, to ancient Roman and Carthaginian sites such as Carthage and Dougga.

If you can tolerate the hassle of the camel market and souks, then shopping and haggling on prices can be good fun.

At nights, it all goes quite low key: there are a couple of casinos (hard currency only) as well as some good discos and night clubs. Not quite Ibiza, but good enough.

Restaurants are always good value at less than £10 a head for a three course meal, including wine or beer. It should be said that the British type of pub does not exist, and most cafés are literally just that – they only serve coffee and soft drinks.

As for the issue of safety, petty crime is sadly rife in Tunisia, such as pickpockets in the market and young street

hustlers who try to con tourists. On the other hand, serious crimes such as mugging, rape, or worse, is very, very rare.

As with any holiday resort, it pays to think ahead. Don't be flash with cash; use hotel safety deposit boxes; and don't leave your luggage unattended.

Overall, the people are very friendly, gregarious and "hands-on". Hospitality is usually very open and generous. Over the past 16 years of going to Tunisia, we have never experienced any discrimination in terms of our disabilities – apart from other tourists. In fact, on many occasions, it could be said that we get too much assistance. *Return air tickets to Tunisia start at around £250.*

*Lodging can be found for as little as £5 per night for a clean room, and it's possible to get by on £10-15 a day. Luxury can be bought for as little as £25.*

[www.tourismtunisia.com](http://www.tourismtunisia.com)

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# Tender love – and care

Building a loving relationship is difficult enough, but for disabled people in residential care and in the community, it can be even more challenging. Rod Hermeston reports

**W**hen Carl Holmes fell for his care worker, he knew there might be problems with her employers.

He was thrilled when she told him she felt the same. But sure enough, his residential care providers frowned on the relationship.

The couple stuck to their guns. Diane, 34, said she would leave if they were not allowed to continue seeing each other.

Carl, 28, who needs 24 hour support and relies on a ventilator, now lives in a bungalow in Colchester provided by a different provider, the charity John Grooms.

They see each other regularly and if Diane stays over, she takes on caring responsibilities for Carl.

"We just clicked, really. It is very good," he says.

Carl has his bungalow through the Treetops High Dependency Centre which also provides residential care.

Sheila Flynn, centre nurse manager, says: "Our attitude is if somebody wants to conduct a relationship with a member of the opposite sex or the same sex, it is their own business."

But she concedes that John Grooms, too, does not encourage relationships between clients and members of staff.

Marion Norman had a relationship while in a Leonard

Cheshire home in 1998.

Marion, 67, of Newcastle, has cerebral palsy. She claims relationships were not encouraged there and that staff would start laughing if she and the man in question started kissing.

"Things were just as bad when he moved into a bungalow. I was not allowed to stay beyond ten o'clock," she says.

She has since moved out and married another man, Paul.

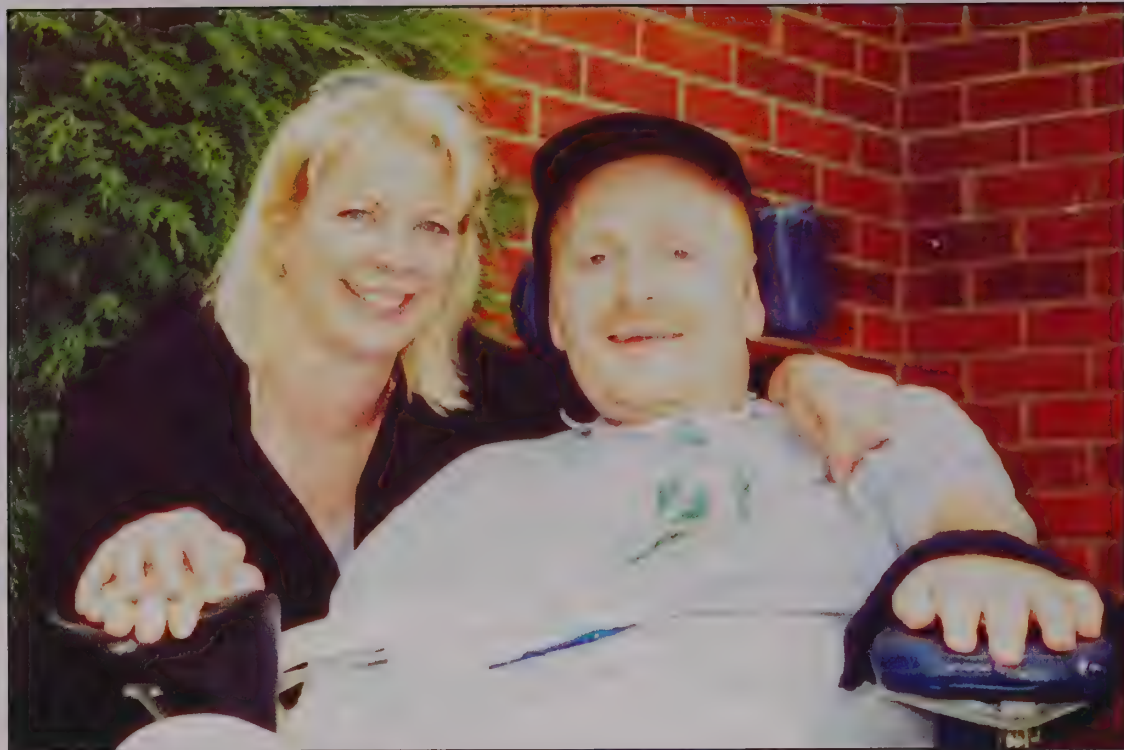
The charity says that its staff are trained to support relationships and the sexual needs of its clients. It has 2,000 residential places and 12,000 clients in the community.

Fiona Street, director of services at Leonard Cheshire, says: "There are a significant number of service users living in our residential services that are having relationships with other service users, people in the community and with staff."

"We have examples of service users visiting prostitutes. They have been given the support to do that." But staff cannot make the arrangements.

While she admits the charity has only 24 double rooms in residential settings, she says double beds have been put in other rooms.

Lack of double rooms was a problem identified by Angela Smith while researching experiences of disabled women living in care in 1997 for



Greater London Action on Disability.

She says: "There was no privacy. Staff were in and out of their rooms."

Concerns remain about the residential care sector in general.

Anne Macfarlane, a disability equality trainer, says staff in any care home can stop disabled people from having relationships. "They just won't sit them next to the person they want to talk to."

Only a few years ago, she says, she met a couple who were told they could not buy an engagement ring by staff.

Simon Parritt, director of the Association to Aid the Sexual and Personal Relationships of People with a Disability (SPOD) says: "Staff don't really know how to handle relationships in residential homes."

female carer. The only time he had ever experienced intimacy and sexual arousal was while she washed and dressed him. They realised they were in love and so as not to compromise her position at work, she left the home. But his parents got involved, forbidding the relationship because they were worried about her motives: he had received a large compensation settlement.

Another difficult issue is

The Power of Love: Carl Holmes fell for his care worker Diane (above). He lives happily in the community like Marion Norman and her husband Paul (below).



SPOD gets calls from staff worried about an inexperienced resident getting into a relationship or concerned about what will happen if relationships fail.

But it gets more calls from people in the community and their care staff asking, for

example, how much support they should give.

There is no doubt that there is a long way to go before disabled people living in care and many in the community can have the relationships that others take for granted.

pain. A woman with arthritis contacted me. She thought she was lesbian when she fell for her female carer. I felt the problem might have been that she was never allowed loving contact with anyone else. She didn't know if she was gay or if she simply needed to express loving feelings.

When a person experiences pain, as with severe arthritis, they often don't know what it is like to be cuddled or caressed

because it is too painful.

Much of what I hear as a counsellor has to do with lack of knowledge and information in these areas. Why is it assumed that if you sit in a wheelchair, you are sexually dead from the neck down? When are we going to look at a person as a whole, beyond their disability, and try to help them reach their potential?" If you would like to share your experience with Lin, see contact details on page 30.

## An uphill struggle

DN's telephone counsellor Lin Berwick comments:

"Many issues within a disabled person's life can prevent them from having a relationship, such as privacy, freedom of choice and pain. In a residential setting, carers can be over zealous with their need to control and protect. But life is about risk taking and making

choices, and learning from those choices, especially when they have been the wrong ones.

My role as a counsellor is to empower people with disabilities, but all too often I am dealing with the emotional consequences of disempowerment. One such example was a male in residential care who became very attached to his



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# Fitness first

After a motorcycle accident, Mike Foster gave up sport. But a chance encounter with a wheelchair basketball team led him onto the court – and back into a state of fitness

I must have heard the phrase “life begins at forty” hundreds of times, but was never really told why.

When I turned 40, a new job changed my life. I was asked to design and make electronic counters and scoreboards for the Milton Keynes Aces Wheelchair Basketball Club. I knew nothing about wheelchair basketball, so it was important to visit the club several times to learn the game.

I was not a sport lover at the time, but I found the matches entertaining. When the job was finished, I continued to follow the team’s matches in the UK and Europe.

members of the team shooting baskets with apparent ease, I was shocked to find that when I sat under the basket I couldn’t throw the ball as high as the net, let alone score a basket.

It was astonishing. I hadn’t realised just how weak and unfit I was, and vowed then that I would have to get in better shape if I was going to accomplish anything on the court.

After several months of intense and exhaustive training, I began to see and feel the remarkable differences that regular exercise could make. I felt much fitter and healthier. At home, it was noticeably

Wheelchair Basketball Club in my hometown of Leicester. I was able to pass many of my skills on to new and inexperienced players. Now, at 56, and chairman of the Leicester Cobras, I regularly train and play basketball.

Recently, I have also become an instructor of guided fitness training, following the opening of the first of 30 national fitness studios with facilities for disabled people in Leicester.

The Inclusive Fitness Initiative, driven by The English Federations of Disability Sport, is a pilot project to encourage more disabled people to participate in fitness training and benefit from regular exercise. If successful, the £1.3 million pilot project will be expanded nationally with a further £13 million of funding.

As I look back over my 38 years of being disabled, I realise that my change of job, and the opportunity to participate in exercise and sport, was a gift to be greatly cherished. It is unlikely that I would ever have



Mike Foster: now an instructor of guided fitness training

taken the plunge myself without significant persuasion and encouragement.

If I could turn the clock back, I would definitely not have spent the last 22 years without sport and exercise.

While I would not suggest

that you rush out and throw yourself into exhaustive sessions with an elite basketball team, I do know that regular exercise is a great and pleasurable way to improve the fitness and health of all people – disabled and able-bodied.

## If I could turn the clock back, I would definitely not have spent the last 22 years without sport and exercise

After several months, it was suggested that I might like to train with the team to keep fit. Following a motorcycle accident in 1963, I had been a paraplegic in a wheelchair for 22 years, and was extremely reluctant to take the plunge. I had never played sports or taken regular exercise.

After considerable encouragement and persuasion, I ventured onto the court. Having previously seen many

easier and safer to transfer from my wheelchair into the bath, car and bed. I also gained more strength, stamina and control when pushing my chair on the basketball court and outside.

Instead of me being a part of the wheelchair, the wheelchair become a part of me, doing what I wanted it to do.

Later, in 1991, I took the opportunity to join the newly created Leicester Cobras

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**Ability St John's**, The Crypt, St John the Baptist Church, 85 Pitfield Street, London N1 6NP, tel: 020 7729 5259

**Ability Stackpole**, Stackpole Home Farm, Pembroke SA71 5DQ, tel: 01646 661425

**Aspire National Training Centre**, Wood Lane, Middlesex HA7 4LP, tel: 020 8954 5759

**College of St Mark and St John**, Derriford Road, Plymouth, Devon PL6 8BH, tel: 01752 636700

**Greenbank Sports Academy**, Greenbank Lane, Liverpool L17 1AG, tel: 0151 280 7757

**Quest Healthy Living and Fitness Centre**, Unit 2, Crossways Retail Park, Caerphilly CF83 3NL, tel: 01222 886657

**Saffron Lane Sports Centre**, Saffron Lane, Leicester LE2 7NQ, tel: 0116 233 3048

**The Swan Centre for Leisure**, Northumberland Road, Tweedmouth, Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 2AS, tel: 01289 330603

Additional gyms expected to be accredited by the English Federation of Disability Sport over the next six months are: Armley Leisure Centre, Leeds; Yate Leisure Centre, Gloucester; Ripley Leisure Centre, Derbyshire and Carn Brea Recreation Centre, Cornwall.

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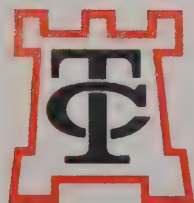
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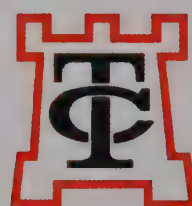
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# 'It's all about finding that balance'



Three's company: Judith (right) at home with Jason and their son Kristian

Judith Irving's determination has always confounded the sceptics. Here, she tells *DN* how she balanced being a career woman with being a mother

**B**eing a professional woman is not always easy. When you add an impairment and motherhood on top of that, some people might say it's impossible. Rubbish! It's all about finding that balance and not limiting yourself to people's perceptions.

I often think that people have this false impression of the limits of disabled people,

would prevent me from becoming an architect.

The challenges I faced then were the challenges that every other university student faced. I just had more to overcome physically, and needed different ways of achieving my goals.

While attending university, I trained for the DAAA (Dwarf Athletic Association of America) swimming team. At

I would have to give up my career because I wouldn't be able to cope. Again, Rubbish! I was not going to limit myself before trying, so I applied for a job that kept me based in north-west England.

Months ago, I gave birth to a beautiful little boy and, with the support of my new employers, I'm now back at work as the access officer of the City of Salford. They are determined to create an accessible environment: not only the built environment, but also in issues of employment and lifestyle for all people.

Becoming a mother has been my greatest. You have to accept that some people will feel that you shouldn't have children, yet I have the same instincts and desire to have a family as most people do. What can a non-disabled person offer a child that I cannot? I can offer love, protection from harm, security, and instill a strong self-esteem in them – are these not the most important aspects of being a parent?

I know I am not facing parenthood on my own, because I have a wonderful husband to share the responsibility. He probably doesn't hear it enough, but he amazes me. He works all day at the office, trains four nights a week, then comes home to help me around the house and take care of Kristian.

He also travels the world,

Games 2002. But you won't hear it from him because Jason is a modest person.

I feel that disabled women need more role models. We can do it; we just have to believe in ourselves! I truly believe that the only failure is to never try at all.

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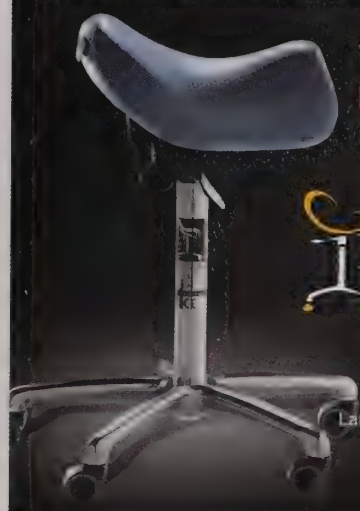
Ian Rideout from the charity 'Cerebral Palsy Action', based at Ainess in Scotland, is confident that the Bambach Saddle Seat® will help to ease the pain and improve the mobility of many disabled people who are now forced to slump in uncomfortable positions that make movement difficult. He commented, "Improving their posture allows them freedom to move, and with that comes more capability and greater independence and self-esteem."

Young Jordan Pedley, 14, from Stafford, is one youngster whose life has been transformed. Jordan has cerebral palsy and has been a wheelchair user all his life. Since using the Bambach Saddle Seat®, as well as experiencing its many benefits at home and at school, he has also been able to take up the sport snooker! This has improved Jordan's concentration and confidence.

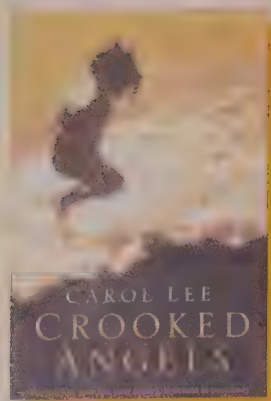
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**C**rooked Angels (Arrow: £9.99) is Carol Lee's account of her experience of severe and debilitating muscle pain and how, with the help of an osteopath and a

counsellor, she traced her pain to childhood trauma.

At the beginning of the book, the writer is at a loss to explain the onset of her symptoms, and as the story unfolds, she undertakes a far-reaching exploration of familial relationships.

The narrative is shared between the adult author and the author as a child. Through this combination, the writer's childhood experience and troubled family history are beautifully evoked and powerfully illustrated.

The fear of the author as a child is tangible as she describes the room getting larger and

herself getting smaller in the presence of a domineering, religiously driven father, who literally puts the fear of God into his daughter.

The compelling voice of the child contrasts starkly with that of the adult who, especially in the opening chapters, seemed so determined to paint herself as the helpless victim of an affliction that had been thrust upon her.

Her self perception changes throughout the book however, and if you can stifle irritation at the early pages, it is worth persevering with.

Rachel Wilson



**T**he title of Stephen Hawking's latest, *The Universe in a Nutshell* (Bantam Press: £20), may surprise us: how could the universe be explained in a 200-

page book, let alone a nutshell?

Hawking's aim is to find a cohesive, singular theory of the cosmos, and he begins with the "basics" of twentieth century physics: Einstein's relativity theory and particle physics. While the former dealt with the very large (the speed of light, gravity as the warping of space), the latter confronted the very small (neutrons, quarks, and so forth). Hawking searches for a unified theory, and the ensuing explanations are often stranger than science fiction.

Picture, for example, the theory that there are up to 11 dimensions of matter, or that

there are multiple histories of the universe, only one of which is perceived by us.

If you're lost, don't worry: almost every page comes with diagrams and images to make your confusion all the more entertaining as you try to make sense of the theories.

But the true wonder of the book is Hawking himself. Early on, he quotes Shakespeare's Hamlet to state that even if humans are physically limited, "our minds are free to explore the whole universe". The proof of the statement is in the pages of this book.

Sam Gillespie



**A**lzheimer's has been characterised as "like being chained to a corpse." It was a description to which Iris Murdoch's husband of 45 years, John Bayley, took great exception. He chronicled his life with the novelist and philosopher, including the last four years after she had developed Alzheimer's, in *Iris: A Memoir of Iris Murdoch*.

Now Peter J. Conradi, Murdoch's literary executor, has written *Iris Murdoch: A Life* (HarperCollins: £24.99), an impressive biography tracing her Irish origins, early Communism, romantic exploits and development as a writer. At 700 pages, this is a book for enthusiasts. Her books are widely translated and read; they wrestle with concepts of good and evil, her lifetime spanning most of the

horrors of the last century.

Conradi does not dwell in great detail on those last four years. "Sailing into darkness" was Murdoch's own description of her experience of Alzheimer's and Conradi, as a friend with whom the couple stayed in those last few years, gently describes the simplifying and dimming of Murdoch's words and world, leaving her experience of it "dark" – not terrible, just mysterious.

Conradi is wise to leave the intimate detail to Bayley's memoir. While he accurately describes how Alzheimer's seemed to embellish her gentleness and humour, he comments that others added tragedy to her situation, feeling that, like King Lear's madness, it was "a sight most pitiful in the meanest wretch".

Was the degenerative condition that affected Murdoch the more difficult to bear given her world status as a "great mind"? Or are poverty, poor housing and support services the more serious factors affecting someone with Alzheimer's and those closest to them? The question is gracefully raised by the book and, rightly, left unanswered.

Agnes Fletcher



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TV



I gave up on *Swallow*, C4's three part melodrama about depression, anti-depressants and attempted suicide after the first episode. OK, it tackled the stigma of depression, but was simply implausible. Steven Mackintosh and Christine Tremarco acted their socks off but I wasn't convinced.

BBC2 trotted out the story of *Sister Kenny* and her controversial treatment 50-odd years ago for polio. To splint or not to splint – that is the question. We'll never know the answer.

See *Hear*, also on BBC2, celebrated its 20th anniversary with three pilot shows including a kind of travelogue on Wolverhampton – also known as the Deaf Capital of Britain. You learn something every day.

What I learned from watching *Mr Charity* on BBC1 was that it was about as funny as having your head trepanned.

Meanwhile ITV1's *Comedy Awards* had learned from the BBC *Sports Personality of the Year* last year that if you're giving people gongs, they need to be able to get onto the podium to accept them. Ash Atalla had not won a competition – he was actually producer of *The Office*, currently being repeated on BBC2. Well done.

Whilst ITV1 is to be congratulated for using real people with learning difficulties in their drama *Happy Together*, BBC1's *Rough Justice Special: If The Cap Fits* showed there's still a long way to go in this area. A man with severe learning and physical disabilities, Oliver Campbell, was wrongly imprisoned for a crime he simply could not have committed. This consistently excellent programme calmly proved yet another miscarriage of justice.

Another injustice took place with Sara Keays and her daughter, which was fully illustrated in C4's *Flora's Story*. 100 years ago Flora might have been part of a different circus. As the gagging order on publicity surrounding her is lifted, I wonder what goes through the mind of her father, former Cabinet Minister Cecil Parkinson.

Jane Shepherd

Film



★★★★

Richard Eyre's *Iris* is based on John Bayley's book about his wife, Iris Murdoch. It charts the love between Iris (Judi Dench) and John (Jim Broadbent), juxtaposing their early romance with her later gradual descent into Alzheimer's disease.

Alzheimer's might seem one of the most difficult of disabilities to write about: how do you get inside the mind of your character if that mind itself is vanishing? Yet one of the most extraordinary pieces of television ever made was Tony Harrison's *Black Daisies for the Bride*, filmed in a ward of women with Alzheimer's, using a mix of documentary and opera to evoke what was gone and affirm what remained. While more conventional in form, *Iris* is just as memorable.

Murdoch's loss of her

faculties starts with small incidents: repetition of a sentence, loss of a word. These are disturbing for a woman to whom linguistic precision has always been paramount. Then comes a television interview where, mid-sentence, she completely loses what she is trying to say – not just the words, but the meaning itself.

Scripted by Eyre with Charles Wood, the film co-stars Kate Winslet and Hugh Bonneville as the young Iris and John, and Penelope Wilton. But it is Dench's film, played with a frosty vulnerability that is entirely without mawkishness. Throughout, she preserves the character's inner dignity – a restrained and extraordinary piece of acting.

And there are moments of great tenderness, even when the condition is well advanced. In bed one night, Bayley releases all his anger and frustration. Not comprehending his language, Iris picks up on the emotion.



Great Dame: Judi Dench is 'extraordinary' as Iris Murdoch

Wordlessly, she reaches out and strokes him. It is an immensely affecting moment.

The film is often emotional, never sentimental. Astonishingly, it does not reach a depressing conclusion. Like Harrison's television film, it demonstrates that the human spirit can come under attack but is very hard to kill completely.

It may seem ironic that the loss of memory should produce such memorable works. But perhaps it is not so peculiar that a condition which appears to attack our very humanity should lead writers to affirm that humanity in the strongest possible terms.

Allan Sutherland

## Exhibition

Ninety poems, each with its own work of art, make up an unusual exhibition at the Cotton's Centre atrium in London. All involve the heart in one way or another and every picture has a heart somewhere in the design.

It could be horribly sentimental, but the poems are more often from the heart than about it, and the theme holds together a rich range of creative work in a partnership which is both real and universally symbolic.

Started in Japan in 1994 by NHK, Japan's equivalent of the BBC, *One Heart One World* now includes disabled writers and disabled and non-disabled artists from the UK and the USA. Twenty poems come from the UK, the winning entries in a competition promoted by DN and the National Disability Arts Forum.

Opening the exhibition, Poet Laureate Andrew Motion talked of art as "health giving" in the widest sense – for example, helping us to explore our deeply felt feelings and communicating regardless of differences. He said: "This show gives us the delightful prospect of people speaking to the world at the same time as they interrogate themselves."

Dawn McGhie from Birmingham (above left) meditated on the pressure of



numbers in "Above the River on a Balcony". She had beginner's luck; it was her first poem.

Valerie Laws from Whitley Bay (above right) has a collection of poems coming out this year. "My heart used to beat in the swift, Sharp tap of my high heels", she writes, but after a car accident she uses two sticks. "My heart still hammers out the powerful beat That used to find expression in my feet."

Iranian artist Satta Hashem (above right) translated the determination and harmony he detected in the poem into a painting in egg tempera, pencil and ink.

There were many exciting materials – Vicky Hawkins used eye-catching blocks of buttons and textile artist Margaret Martin used paper made from stinging nettles, with rose petals, clay and flax.

An exhibition worth seeing.

Mary Wilkinson  
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ILLUSTRATION BY CLARE CURTIS

# Dear Ann

- love and loneliness
- bereavement
- personal problems
- advice and support

Ann Darnbrough, who is disabled herself, is co-author of the *Directory for Disabled People* and other guides. Write to her at *Disability Now*, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW or e-mail your problem to [editor@disabilitynow.org.uk](mailto:editor@disabilitynow.org.uk)



## Dear readers:

I get lots of enquiries about financial benefits, housing problems and so on, and I have often recommended that you contact your local Citizens' Advice Bureau. I have recently found an information website that is updated regularly. It covers housing, benefits, consumer rights, family matters, debt and the legal system. It can be found at: [www.advice.org.uk](http://www.advice.org.uk)

and toilet, and I haven't had a bath in ten months. I have tried contacting both Shelter and Derby Housing Aid.

Please help me. My social worker is helpless.

*Jane, Derbyshire*

I know just the organisation which will be able to help you: the Derbyshire Coalition for Inclusive Living. It is run by disabled people and has an excellent reputation for helping people such as yourself. You can be sure they'll be on your side.

### I'm over my oven

I have a well-mounted, electric double oven with doors that open downward.

I have arthritis which is steadily progressing and find it difficult to lift oven trays in and out over the doors. I have been looking for a wall-mounted double oven with side hanging doors for two years. Could you or any of you readers help?

*Mrs. P. Elliot, Sheffield*

I suggest you contact the Regional Disabled Living Centre in Manchester.

Alternatively, you could contact the Disabled Living Foundation in London. They have a helpline which charges at local rates. You could, of course, write to them for the appropriate information. The

DLF would also be able to give readers in other parts of the country the address of their nearest Disabled Living Centre.

### Is it my disability?

I thought my life had settled down nicely and that I had found the perfect partner. In fact I had, but he came to feel differently. He has now walked out of my life. He won't admit to it, but I think it's because I'm disabled. I just feel that my life has come to an end. I'll never find anyone else like him.

*Meghan, Cumbria*

One of the wonderful things about falling in love is that you believe you have found the one person who is the perfect match for you. The awful thing about breaking up is the realisation that life is not as simple as that. And you start asking yourself how this could happen. To make sense of your life, you give a reason – "it's because I'm disabled". The shock, the anger, the despair has to be directed somewhere.

The question is how to move on. You need to remember the happy times you had together. You're right, you won't find anyone else like your "ex"; the next person will be completely new in your life. Above all, don't let the memories embitter you. You built a good relationship and not everyone achieves that. In time, you will find someone new. But don't rush it. Whatever you do, don't blame your disability. After all, your partner fell in love with you as you were, and that could happen again.



**Help at the end of the phone**

DN's telephone counsellor Lin Berwick gives disabled people and carers advice and support on personal and spiritual problems. Disabled herself, Lin is a psycho-therapeutic counsellor and Methodist local preacher, with a post-graduate diploma in homeopathic medicine. If you have something you need to discuss in confidence, talk to her on Mondays 6pm-10pm and Thursdays 1pm-5pm, tel: 01787 882111.

### I've got the goods

I have a number of disability aids that could be very useful to somebody else. I would like to swap or sell them. I am sure many other disabled people have items with plenty of life left in them.

*Mary, Macclesfield*

I have two suggestions. You can advertise your equipment in the DN classified section. It costs £6 per line (minimum 2 lines) and reaches an estimated 70,000 people. Or you could join the Disability Equipment register, described as the largest source in the UK for used equipment for disabled people to buy and sell.

The register is published monthly in magazine format, reaches 4,000 people, and has a website. A registration fee entitles the subscriber to

advertise as many items as they wish over six or twelve months. At present, the charge for this is £10 (six months) or £15 (12 months).

### Desperately seeking

It's no fun being 30 and single. I feel really depressed. Where is the wedded bliss I hear so much about? Where do I find the man of my dreams?

*Greta, Glasgow*

It all depends on what sort of dreams you have. What sort of life do you lead? You're unlikely to attract a man until you lead an interesting life of your own. The right person seems to turn up only when you least expect it.

You need to enjoy being yourself; then men will be intrigued and will want to share some of that enthusiasm.

The thought of marriage can seem very boring, and you need to be seen to have that special added value. Wedded life comes at a price, which is well worth paying. If you lead a dull life, you will only find dull men – and believe me, they are not worth finding.

Apparently, statistics rank museums high as desirable pick-up spots, but only when you concentrate on the art works rather than the audience.

Go on, there's a whole world out there. Enjoy yourself and start living.

### The final straw

I am writing to you as a last resort. I have cerebral palsy and am a wheelchair user. My flat is unacceptable – the tops are all too high, as are the sink

**Regional Disabled Living Centre,** Manchester, tel. 0161 214 5959.

**Disabled Living Foundation,** 380-384 Harrow Road, London, W9 2UH, helpline: 0845 130 9177 [www.dlf.org.uk](http://www.dlf.org.uk)

**Disability Equipment Register,** 4 Chatterton Road, Bristol, BS37 4BJ, tel. 01454 318 818, e-mail: [disbreg@dial.com](mailto:disbreg@dial.com) web: [www.disabreg.dial.pipex.com](http://www.disabreg.dial.pipex.com)

**Derbyshire Coalition for Inclusive Living,** Park Road, Ripley, Derbyshire, tel: 01773 740 246

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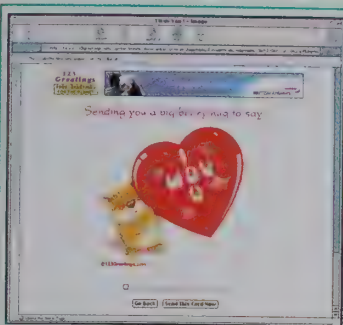
DN02/02

**Shaw-Direct**, 1c Carlyon Road, Alperton, Wembley, London HA0 1HH



## Bright ideas

Can't quite figure out what to get your cuddle-bunny for Valentine's Day? Dan Batten has suggestions for that special someone



If you can't get to the shops to pick up a Valentine's card for your loved one, send them an electronic one from 123 greetings. They have plenty of different designs to suit whatever way you choose to say those three little words, including greetings for far-away loved ones and those who might need to kiss and make up in order to escape the dog house! Visit [www.123greetings.com](http://www.123greetings.com)

To accompany that e-card, why not send flowers from Express Flowers? They can deliver fine blooms from their preset range of arrangements and bouquets, or you can design your own bunch to suit your valentine's tastes and make a smile bloom across their face. Tel: 01204 577939 or visit [www.expressflowers.co.uk](http://www.expressflowers.co.uk)

If you want to woo someone with some timeless words, you could do worse than sending a copy of *Penguin's English Romantic Verse* their way. Featuring works from greats including Byron, Shelley and Keats, your valentine will be putty in your hands if a finely crafted verse is what gets them going. £7.99 from all good bookshops, ISBN 014021025.

And finally, if your loved one likes a tipple, take a look at the selection on offer from Buy Wine Online. You can order quality individual bottles of wine at supermarket prices, and choose from a range of chocolates and champagne, spirits and wine and cheese selections, some of which come in snazzy box sets. Tel: 01252 852211. [www.buywineonline.co.uk](http://www.buywineonline.co.uk)

You can make your loved one float on air with a balloon greeting from Balloon In a Box. As it's Valentine's Day, an assortment of decorated heart shaped balloons are the order of the day, but if the apple of your eye is a premiership foot-

ball fan you can score a wonder goal by sending them a balloon decked out in their team's colours. I hope my girlfriend takes note of this! Tel: 0161 718 1277.



If you want to send something plant-related to a green-fingered sweetie, take a trip to e-garden. Aside from normal Valentine's bouquets, they have everything the gardening fanatic could desire, including exotic orchids to put on the patio, garden orna-

ments and even giant garden games including chess. Or if you can't make your mind up, you could take the less romantic option of an e-garden gift voucher. But a present picked by you would be so much more romantic! Tel: 01823 652252 or visit [www.e-garden.co.uk](http://www.e-garden.co.uk)

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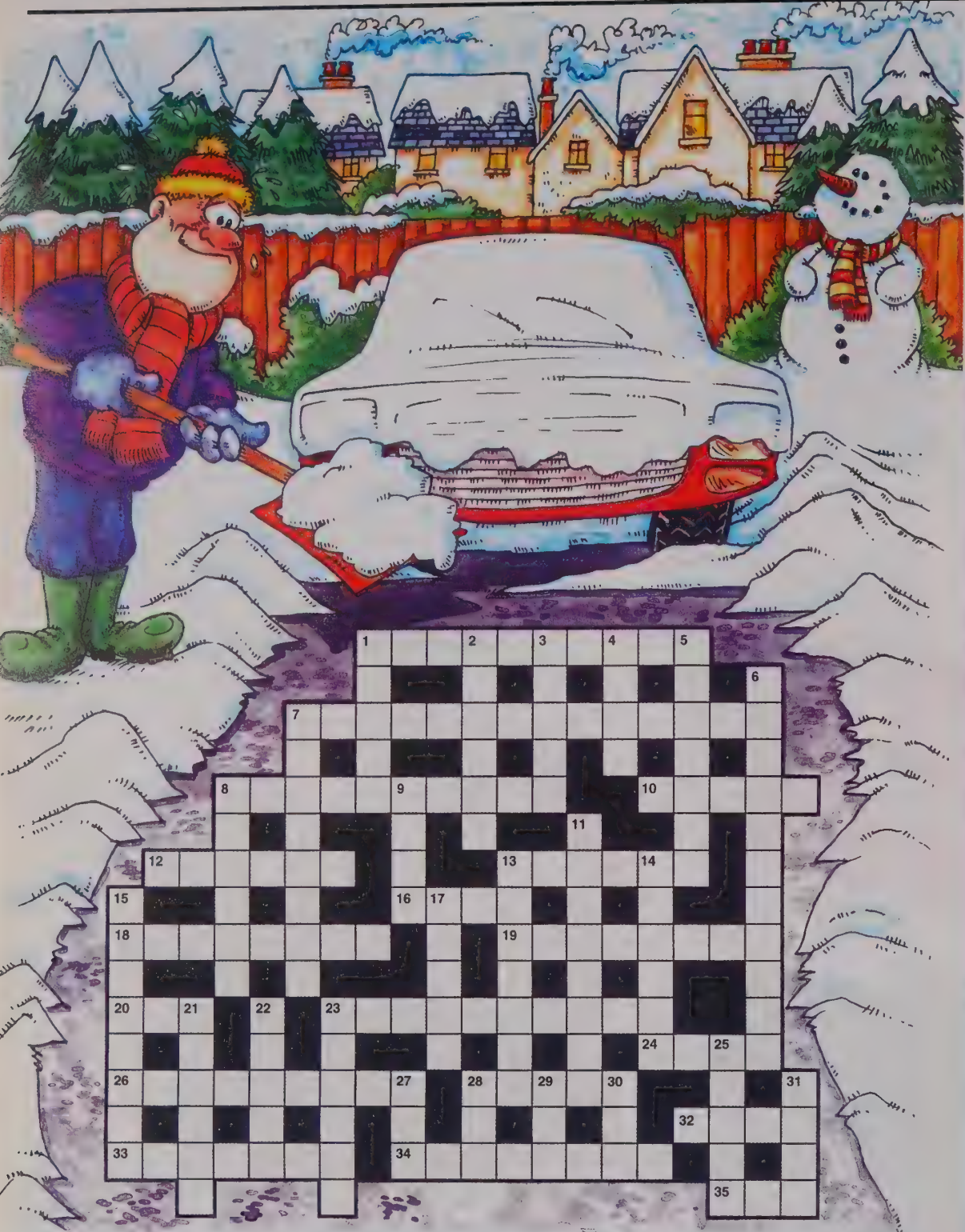
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THE FLEXIBLE SPECIALISTS PROVIDING THE ANSWERS

Heard of any gadgets, devices or equipment that others could find helpful? Send your ideas to Dan Batten at DN, tel: 020 7619 7323, e-mail: [editor@disabilitynow.org.uk](mailto:editor@disabilitynow.org.uk)





If it's too cold for you to venture outdoors, our crossword will get your brain cells warmed up with s-no-w problems at all.

### ACROSS

- It keeps the roads clear during winter (4-6)
- Seasonal play by Shakespeare? (3,7,4)
- People who act as intermediaries (2-8)
- Great French skier who dominated the 1968 Winter Olympics (5)
- Ed legs around on this winter vehicle! (6)
- Winter sport, enjoyed in the Cairngorms (6)
- Film idol whose films include *Giant* and *Rebel Without A Cause* (4)
- Many people take winter ones in the sun (8)
- Warm, winter garment (8)
- Young dog (3)
- Popular entertainments which run on into January (10)
- Containers which preserve food (4)
- Disease which affects many people in winter (9)
- Silly and senseless (5)
- Musical composition for three performers (4)
- Vehicle which combats icy roads in winter (7)
- An old joke or anecdote (8)
- Winter head-warmer (3)

### DOWN

- Snow and rain together (5)
- The harshest season (6)
- David O'Leary's football team (5)
- It was the USA's superpower opponent during the 20th Century (4)
- People turn it up during winter (7)
- Waterproof boots (11)
- Long, narrow sledge curved upwards at the front (8)
- Language spoken in Scotland and Ireland, in two distinct varieties (6)
- See 25 Down
- In football, they are now called assistant referees (8)
- Children like to build them on winter days (7)
- Most attractive (6)
- Consumer activity (8)
- Third closest planet to the sun (5)
- North Atlantic auk (6)
- Dracula's title (5)
- Cupboard in which crockery and cutlery are kept (6)
- And 9 Down. "The \_\_\_\_\_ doth blow And we shall \_\_\_\_\_ have snow" (5,4)
- Part of the circumference of a circle (3)
- Hazard on winter roads (3)
- Part of a play (3)
- Large, flightless Australian bird (3)
- Covering of paint (4)

CROSSWORD BY JIM MCLAREN  
ILLUSTRATION BY VALERIE BARR  
ANSWERS ON PAGE 34

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DN02/02

## Candid Dan

Dan braces himself for a year of merriment – again!

During the recent festive celebrations I noticed a worrying change in the way I celebrated. Whereas I would have previously celebrated amidst a slew of green bottles and hideously loud music, this time the bottles were less and the music was gentle background fare from mum's small speakers, rather than my own earthquake inducing variety. New year was similarly sedate, celebrated with friends and being awfully civilised over a game of trivial pursuit with questions from the 1980s.

With the fun of Christmas and new year a distant memory, combined with a profound loathing of the winter months, I'm desperately looking forward to the swift arrival of April, when all types of merriment will ensue.

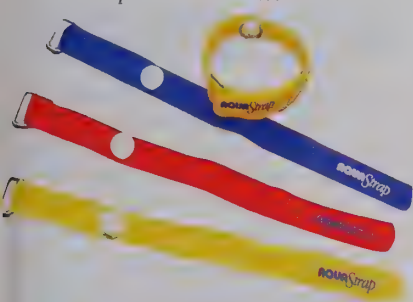
First up is my 30th birthday. I have no idea what's in store but I know that I won't be allowed to let it pass unnoticed. If Becky has her way, we'll have the big day somewhere hot, sipping drinks as ludicrous as one of Del Boy's creations. While I wouldn't object to this at all, I think the first year of my third decade will probably end up the same as most of those in my second, in the pub with all of my dearest mates. As long as they're paying, I won't complain.

Then a couple of weeks later it's off to Amsterdam to help Windsor celebrate one of his last weekends as a "free" man. With a 15-plus strong entourage hitting the streets of Holland's best known city, our leader Bob has promised us trips to galleries, clog making factories and cheese tasting. Quite how this will go down with a troupe intent on nothing less than absolute mayhem, I don't know, although it is quite possible that Bob is being facetious in the extreme. He'd better be if he doesn't fancy a dip in a canal.



# Ten top travel toys

**1** Have you ever waited for your luggage to appear on the airport carousel, only to see a load of bags that look just like yours? Get a strap with your name emblazoned on it from Permark Products and be certain that you don't end up with Mr Smith's smalls instead of your own. The strap has your name written along its entire length and is adjustable to fit different size cases. It comes with a security lock and internal nametag. £6.95, tel: 020 8954 6333 or visit [www.nametaesdirect.com](http://www.nametaesdirect.com).



**2** While you're waiting for those bags to appear on a cold night, you might wish you had something to keep your feet warm without making them uncomfortable. A pair of Thorlo Coolmax socks from Safariquip will keep the heat in while keeping your appendages at a desirable temperature. £6.99 from Safariquip, tel: 0870 330 0113 or visit [www.safariquip.co.uk](http://www.safariquip.co.uk).



**3** Also from Safariquip, a handy aid for those of you distressed by the thought of being away from home comforts. Now you can take a part of your bathroom with you wherever you go with a unique folding bowl (above). The bowl comes with carry handles to make lifting easier and when not in use it rolls up and packs flat for easy carriage. £13.99.

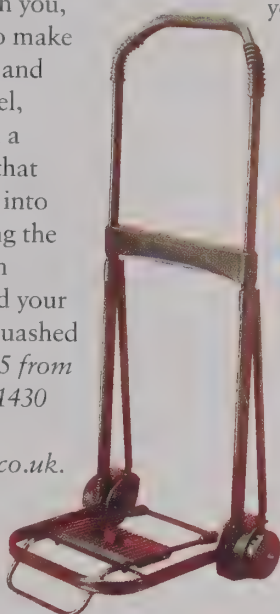
**4** To follow that refreshing wash, get rid of excess drips with an easy-to-carry pack towel. The towel is quick drying and can lose an amazing nine times its own weight when given a wringing out. £13 from Gear Zone, tel: 01603 630298 or visit [www.gear-zone.co.uk](http://www.gear-zone.co.uk).

**5** Finally, if you find a newly acquired hole in one of your holiday garments, a quick look in the Kwik Fix



needlework kit (above), featuring needles, pins, cottons, buttons and a whole lot more should see the offending tear repaired in no time for a paltry £3.49. Tel: 020 8906 8505 or visit [www.design-go.com](http://www.design-go.com).

**6** There's only one thing worse than a flat tyre on your wheelchair, and that's not being able to get at the offending wheel to fix it. But if you carry a pyramid chockramp with you, you'll be able to make a quick pitstop and elevate the wheel, securing it with a special tongue that locks the wheel into place, preventing the wheelchair from rolling away and your fingers being squashed to a pulp. £12.95 from Waudbys, tel: 01430 422523 or visit [www.waudbys.co.uk](http://www.waudbys.co.uk).



**7** Design Go has loads of stuff to get you on your way if you want to buy different bits for your travels in one go.

One great idea is their X-tra Bag (far right), which can go from being a dinky pocket size bag to a supersize holdall big enough to take half of your wardrobe and back again with a few quick folds for a reasonable £6.99. Tel: 020 8906 8505 or visit [www.design-go.com](http://www.design-go.com).

**8** If you have taken advantage of the X-tra bag's capacity, you'll probably need a hand to move it, so strap it onto a Go-Kart Hauler (below, left). With a maximum weight bearing load of 60kg that hefty load you dreaded taking should move like a dream, especially if you can strap it to your electric wheelchair. £29.99.

**9** Everyone knows that seats on trains, planes and buses can be less than comfortable affairs, especially if you're in for a long haul. An inflatable shaped cushion from click 4 luggage, designed to support your head and neck, should make the journey more pleasant, and may even afford you a snooze to while away the

DN's inspector of gadgets, Dan Batten, checks out a selection of nifty devices aimed at easing holiday stress

hours. £4.50, tel: 020 7639 3299, [www.click4luggage.co.uk](http://www.click4luggage.co.uk).

**10** If you want to keep minds young or old occupied on a long journey without the distraction of Game Boy sound effects, why not invest in a scaled down version of a good old fashioned board game? There are plenty of classics available, including Monopoly for any aspiring property tycoons or Scrabble for the wordsmiths among you. £7.99 from all good toy shops or visit [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk).




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• Personal

**MALE 34, SLIGHT** cp, wltm female who loves to travel and enjoys the fun things in life, for friendship and possible relationship. Box no: 141

**SLIM, GOOD LOOKING** guy with Friedrichs Ataxia, 29, wheelchair user, own house, own car. Non smoker, loving, caring, considerate, likes music, socialising motorsport and art and lots more, seeking someone slim, blonde/brunette and good looking, 19-34 for friendship, possibly relationship. Notts/Lincs area preferably. Box no: 142

**FEMALE, 56 YEARS** old, divorced, wheelchair user. Like 60s music, looking for male 50-65, smoker with gsoh, for friendship possibly more. East Anglia area. Box no: 143

**ARE YOU AN** intelligent, caring, non-smoking man with a positive outlook, an open mind and a sense of humour? If so, why not contact this well educated, lively, warm-hearted professional, 50 something woman who would like to spend time with a stimulating and loving companion. Box no: 144

**DEL BOY, 50** something, nice pad, no ties and no cash or health problems, seeking special lady for exciting times. Age, disability no problem. Box no: 145

**MY NAME IS** Michael. I am a Christian astrologer (not professional). I have a rare type of dyslexia. Interests are history, old time dancing, piano, newspaper cuttings and steam engines. I am a young looking 51 and wltm a lady, perhaps younger. I am 6 ft and slim. I live near Bishop's Stortford. Box no: 146

**RICHARD, 52, SMOKER**, disabled, have a small dog would like to meet a lady to socialise with through going out to the pub or club sometimes, and spending evenings at home. I have a good sense of humour. Eltham, South East London. Box No: 147

**MAN, 49, KIND** and considerate. Hair and beard now grey-white due to radiation treatment. Seeks woman, 40s or 50s, disabled or otherwise. London area. Box no: 148

• Cars/vans

**RENAULT EXTRA 1.4RN**, R reg, 23k miles, 10 months MOT, rear access ramp, rear passenger seat, vgc, £5450. Tel: 07754 540854.

**VOLKSWAGEN CARAVELLE, 6** reg, hydraulic steering, automatic wheelchair lift, electric passenger hoist etc. Excellent condition, one owner, 25k miles. £4,000 ono. Tel: 020 8567 6444 or 07973 419574.

**DAIHATSU HIJET 1.3CC**, Dec 99, 8,100 miles, petrol, 3 seats plus wheelchair winch and rear ramp. £6,000. Tel: 020 8317 8309 (South East London).

**VW SHARAN, S** reg, November 1998, automatic. Brotherwood raised roof conversion, rear ramp, winch, swivel front seat, air conditioning and cd player. 8k miles, excellent condition. £17,500. Tel: 020 8658 5000.

**P REG PEUGEOT** 806, turbo diesel, 20,537 miles. With Constables carchair system. £7,750. Tel: 01584 781425 (view Devon).

**RENAULT ESPACE, GRUA** conversion with air suspension and automatic tilting ramp access. RT 2.2 diesel turbo, 5 speed manual, R reg, 43k miles. Electric restraints, p.a.s. Electric windows, locking and mirrors, 5 seats (3 removable). Fully serviced, excellent condition, dark green. £14,500. Tel: 01442 866216.

**CHAIRMAN FORD, GOWRINGS** conversion, 59k miles, H reg, 9 months MOT, new tyres and windscreen. £2,200 ono. Tel: 020 8361 7517 (North London).

**V REG PEUGEOT** 1.9 diesel, 4 seats plus wheelchair. £12,500. Tel for more details: 01638 750651.

**PEUGEOT EXPERT 1.9** turbo diesel, 1998, R reg. 35k miles, 4/5 seats, rear ramp wheelchair access. Interbility conversion. £6,250. Tel: 01525 635027 (Bedford).

**SUZUKI VITARA JLX**, N reg, 33k miles, second owner, racing green, petrol, manual, radio cassette, mot Dec 2002, taxed, Thatcham immobilizer. Fine Brotherwood converted front passenger seat swings out 90 degrees for transfer to and from wheelchair. £5,300. Tel: 01458 272274 (Somerset).

**FORD COURIER, AUTO**, 1996, pas, vgc, 20k miles, 4 seats and wheelchair, mot until September 2002, folding ramp. Tel: 028 9336 4591.

**MERCEDES VITO 113** 2.0l, petrol, fitted with manual rear ramp and electric winch, only 10½ months old, hyacinth blue, low mileage. X reg, £17,500 ono. Tel Debbie: 07957 480351 (Harrow, Middlesex).

**PRAIRIE 6 REG**, Brotherwood wheel-in conversion, front passenger swivel seat, infill seat. 35k miles, 1 year mot, 1 owner, pas. £3,000 ono. Tel: 01442 866094 (West Herts).

**RENAULT KANGOO 1.4 RXE** Registered June 2001. 2,300 miles. Wheelchair access via folding ramp at rear. Carries 3 passengers and wheelchair. One single and one double folding rear seat. Power assisted steering. Driver and passenger airbags. Electric front windows and mirrors. Remote central locking. Metallic blue. £10,900. Tel: 01434 240241.

**RENAULT TRAFIC VERSA** conversion, 1993, K reg. Wheelchair ramp, electric winch, 5 seats plus wheelchair. Mot to Jan 2003, service history, above average condition, will demonstrate anywhere. £2,750. Tel: 01352 712063.

• Wheelchairs/scooters

**ADULT VOYAGER LIGHTWEIGHT** self-propelled wheelchair including side panels and push handles. Ex demo bought for £1,100, only used for 1 month due to the purchase of an electric chair. Will take £800 ono. Tel: 01704 550873.

**PRIDE HURRICANE FOUR** wheel electric scooter, 20 miles to one charge, takes 28 stone. Lights, mirror, rear view, horn, shopping basket, metallic red paint. Excellent condition. Cost £2,600 new, will accept £1,000. Tel: 01283 702615.

• Accommodation

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• Household/family

**CHILTERN MEDICAL SHOWER**, excellent condition with wheelchair access ramp, handrails and shower curtains. Includes brand new Dolphin electric shower. All with full installation instructions. £250. Tel: 01386 792095.

**ARJO LISA HYDRAULIC** operated lift. Excellent condition, very attractive/compact. Including universal sling and toilet sling. Takes 120 kgs weight. £950 ono. Tel: 01707 875992.

**ELECTRIC ADJUSTABLE BED** 3' electric controlled bed (head raise only) foot raise manually. Drop down sides. Vgc, £300 ono. Tel: 01793 820387.

**PRACTICALLY UNUSED:-** Premier Easy Bath (Walk in) with 12" deep integral seat with matching misty pink wash basin. Cost fitted £4,530. Asking £800. Tel: 01942 830880.

Crossword Answers

**ACROSS:** 1. Snow-plough  
7. The Winter's Tale  
8. Go-betweens 10. Killy  
12. Sledge 13. Skiing 16. Dean  
18. Holidays 19. Overcoat  
20. Pup 23. Pantomimes  
24. Tins 26. Influenza  
28. Inane 32. Trio 33. Gritter  
34. Chestnut 35. Hat  
**DOWN:** 1. Sleet 2. Winter  
3. Leeds 4. USSR 5. Heating  
6. Wellingtons 7. Toboggan  
8. Gaelic 9. Wind 11. Linesmen  
13. Snowmen 14. Nicest  
15. Shopping 17. Earth  
21. Puffin 22. Count 23. Pantry  
25. North 27. Arc 28. Ice  
29. Act 30. Emu 31. Coat

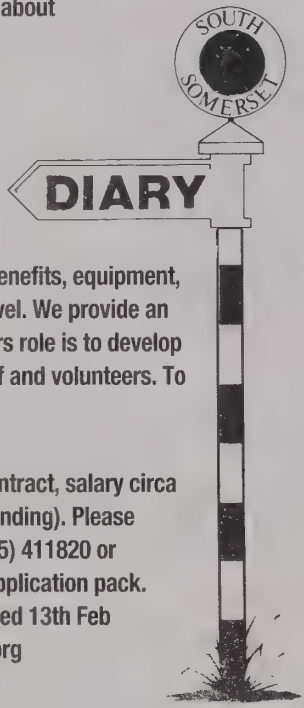
• Recruitment (on pages 34 to 38)

**DIARY – Disability Information and advice about Resources in Yeovil and South Somerset, has a vancancy for a**

MANAGER

**DIARY** provides support for people with disabilities, their families and carers offering information on housing, education, employment issues, benefits, equipment, sporting activities, clubs, holidays and travel. We provide an approved adovocacy service. The Managers role is to develop core services, recruit, train, supervise staff and volunteers. To promote DIARY, network, fundraise, produce Newsletters and reports.

35 hours per week, one year fixed term contract, salary circa £17,000 p.a. (subject formal approval of funding). Please ring/minicom (01935) 433055 or fax (01935) 411820 or e-mail information@diaryinfo.org for an application pack. Closing date for completed applications Wed 13th Feb 2002. Visit our website at www.diaryinfo.org  
Registered Charity no. 1044278



Access Consultant  
London  
Competitive salary & Benifits



Buro Happold  
Consulting Engineers

Buro Happold is a leading multi-disciplinary engineering consultancy associated with world class construction projects. Access is one of our growing disciplines, and our team has collectively over 75 years of experience. We take a proactive approach to access consultancy, integrating access into the design concept without constraining architectural aims whilst ensuring compliance with best good practice, current and impending legislation including the Disability Discrimination Act.

We require an experienced Access Consultant for our London office who can provide technical guidance and design advice on all sectors of work including education, health, leisure and highways. You will be from an architectural, engineering or design background and will have a complete understanding of how to achieve a fully accessible environment. You should have first hand knowledge or experience of disability issues and current legislation, a proven track record in inclusive design and a desire to join an innovative international consultancy.

If you meet these requirements and want your career to progress in an environment where your skills and expertise will really be valued, please apply in writing, quoting reference number **046/L001**, closing date **22nd Feburary 2002**, enclosing your CV and current salary details to:

**Buro Happold, The Personnel Team**  
**Camden Mill, Lower Bristol Road**  
**Bath, BA2 3DQ**  
Or by email to recruitment@burohappold.com

Barnsley Lifestyles

Is a new organisation working with Scope and Social Services in Barnsley to help disabled people to lead more independent lives. Lifestyles will help people to overcome the barriers preventing them from accessing normal opportunities in life and build confidence so disabled people can support each other.

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

**SALARY:** £22,971 for a 37 hour week, pro rata.  
To work 20 hours per week initially, to be worked on a flexible basis, including evenings and occasional weekends.

We wish to appoint an enthusiastic, experienced and self-motivated person to manage the service, with experience of working with disabled people on a paid or voluntary basis. You will also have worked in the social, health or voluntary sector and ideally, have experience of managing or developing a community based service. You will work from home, with all equipment provided, supporting people in their own communities around the borough.

You must be educated to HNC, NVQ 3/4 or equivalent in a relevant subject and have the ability to undertake travel in connection with the post, for which expenses are payable.

To request an application pack or for an informal discussion, please contact Rachel Foster on (01226) 772285.

Closing date: **Friday 15th February 2002**  
Interviews to be held in the week commencing 4th March



## Conditions

Disability Now maintains the right to amend or withdraw lineage adverts without prior notice. All adverts must comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice.

Telephone numbers and addresses will not be placed in personal adverts, for confidentiality. Instead, Box numbers will be provided. Likewise, telephone numbers and addresses will not be given out over the telephone if requested.

Box Numbers can be requested for non-personal adverts. However, it may limit the response to it. If you want to advertise documents, goods or services contact Patrick Durham-Matthews (tel: 020 7619 7320), fax: 020 7619 7331.

Lineage adverts can only be used by private individuals. All commercial enquiries must be addressed to Richard Gresham (see contact details above).

DN cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage of adverts or letters during forwarding. It is the responsibility of the advertiser to check the content of their advert, and to ensure any abbreviations cannot be misunderstood.

**For personal ads, submit about 25 words and send a cheque or postal order for £10 payable to Disability Now with your ad. This is to help cover our costs.**

**To reply to a personal ad indicate the Box Number and mark the envelope Private and Confidential. If you do not it will be opened. Send it to DN, address on page 2.**

**SEND US YOUR SMALLS...  
...and make a big impression. Small ads in DN reach over 70,000 people for just £6 a line. All small ads must be paid for in advance. If you want to advertise, please use the form provided. Send it with a cheque for the total to Disability Now, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW.**

## LINAGE ADVERTS

Due to lack of space in this issue, there is no lineage form. To place a lineage advert, please use the form in the January issue. Alternatively, contact Patrick Durham-Matthews: Tel: 020 7619 7320, E-mail: patrick.durhammatthews@scope.org.uk

## Recruitment (on pages 34 to 38)



## Lay Commissioner – the Law Society THE CONSUMERS' GUARANTEE OF FAIR PLAY

London/Leamington Spa – 2-3 days a week



### kmc international search & selection

Further particulars, including instructions on how to apply, may be obtained by contacting the Law Society's recruitment consultants, kmc international search and selection, at 7 Old Park Lane, London W1K 1QR, or by e-mailing n.grant@kmcinternational.co.uk or downloaded from www.kmcinternational.co.uk

Please quote reference no. 303/195

The closing date for applications is Monday 18 February 2002.

The appointment will be made on merit. The Law Society is committed to being an equal opportunities employer.

The Law Society wishes to appoint a lay person of the highest recognised standing to oversee its new scheme for handling of complaints against solicitors.

The Law Society represents and regulates over 80,000 solicitors in England and Wales. As part of a major programme of reform of its approach to regulation, The Society has established a Consumer Redress Scheme. To oversee this scheme the Society wishes to appoint a Lay Commissioner to provide an additional guarantor of the transparency, fairness and efficacy of the Society's complaints handling system. The Commissioner will have freedom to report on the Scheme and make recommendations to the Law Society, publicly if s/he wishes, about the Scheme's operation.

You will have a distinguished track record of success at a senior level in the public or private sectors. In addition, you will be able to demonstrate the ability to deal successfully with consumer concerns and to relate credibly to a range of stakeholders, the ability to weigh complex material and factors and to reach conclusions in a considered, objective way. You will also be able to demonstrate an awareness of and experience of dealing with diversity issues.

Salary will be commensurate with the role and the calibre of the individual being sought.

## Tower Hamlets Direct Payments Support Service

Tower Hamlets Coalition of Disabled People is a well-established user led organisation of disabled people, committed to the social model of disability and independent living. We are about to launch a Direct Payments Support Service for the multi-cultural, multi-racial borough of Tower Hamlets. This service will provide information, advocacy and practical support to all potential direct payment users. This exciting new initiative will provide interesting challenges for the following staff:

### Direct Payments Worker

(NJC Spinal Pt 29 £22,416, including London weighting)

You will help potential users to understand the nature and requirements of the scheme. You will provide advocacy, advice, and training, and support users to evaluate and implement their own independent living scheme through direct payments.

### Direct Payments Co-ordinator

(NJC Spinal Pt. 32 £24,345, including London weighting)

You will be a disabled person. You will play a key role in developing the Support Service and promoting it within the community. You will manage two Direct Payment Workers and assist them in delivering the service. You will create and deliver training for users of the service and establish an information resource library.

We are an Equal Opportunities Employer. We particularly welcome applications from disabled people and from people from ethnic minority communities. All posts are open to job share. Initial funding for these posts is available for 3 years.

For an application pack please contact: Tower Hamlets Coalition of Disabled People, c/o Mile End Hospital, Bancroft Road, London E1 4DG Telephone 020 8980 0447, Fax 020 8981 8828, Minicom 020 8980 4300. Closing date for applications: Friday 15th February.

### NEW YEAR - NEW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

People with learning disabilities living in Surrey, Merton, Sutton and Richmond urgently need volunteer advocates.

ADVOCACY PARTNERS

Advocacy Partners offers free training and on-going support for this valuable and rewarding role.

There are six two-hour training sessions on Wednesday evenings, commencing on Wednesday, 27th February at 6.30 pm in Carshalton, Surrey.

For further information, please contact Val Stubbings or Vicki Packham on 01737 222070 at Advocacy Partners, Blackborough Club, 15 Holmesdale Road, Reigate, Surrey, RH2 0BA, or email @ advocacypartners.org.uk or visit our website on www.advocacypartners.org.uk

## For Sale (cont. pg 36)

### WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES FOR SALE

1999 T Scudo by Universal Mobility, PAS, 12K miles	£12,750
1999 T VW 1.9 TD, by Universal, PAS, lowering suspension 8K miles	£11,995
1999 T Fiat Ulysees TD EL, Top spec. 5 seats & wheelchair 12.5K miles	£15,250
1998 R VW Cruiser 2.5 TD, Auto, 7K miles, Tail Lift	£12,750
1998 R VW Sharon 2.0, Auto, 26k miles, 5 seats & wheelchair	£13,500
1998 R Brotherwood Alhambra, Auto, 22k miles	£18,750
1995 M Fiesta Courier Chairman, Auto 31k miles	£5,995
1996 N Transit, Semi Hi Roof. Tail life, 24k miles	£8,750
Mercedes Vito & V Class	Choice of 6

CLARKE MOBILITY  
SNODLAND, KENT

01634 243596  
www.gfclarke.com

### PRE-OWNED & DEMONSTRATOR WAV'S FOR SALE

VW Caravelle 2.4D, '96 N, red. Lowering suspension, tip up forward facing rear seats, lowered rear access	£7,495
VW Transporter SWB 1.9TD '95 M, Green, WAV Conversion, 4 Pass Driver & Wheel Chair.	£8,975
Fiat Ulysse 2.0EL, R reg, 50k miles. Lowered floor with ramp. Driver 3 Pass + Wheelchair, PAS, twin sunroofs climate control & electric windows.	£10,995
Peugeot Expert Combo 1.9TD, '99 S, 55k miles, 5 seater with wheelchair access via removable ramps.	£7,695
Skoda Cube 1.9D, WAV, '98 R, 42k miles, full lowered floor conversion	£9,975
Renault Kangoo 1.9D WAV, '98 S, 44k miles, full lowered floor conversion	£11,495
Renault Trafic Prima 1.7P, WAV, '93 L, 41k miles, 1 wheelchair + Driver & 4 Pass. Widnes conversion	£3,795

New or ex-demo Renault Kangoo WAVs – call for prices and spec

Wheelchair Accessible Motorhome, 2/3 Berth designed from new for disabled person use. Base vehicle Mercedes 312D Auto '98 R. Remote Control rear doors & Ricon lift. Electric 6 way drivers seat Plus best of other adaptations. Cost New £45,000. Please call for full specification & price

All the above vehicles come with our Comprehensive Used Vehicle Warranty

95 Bonnygate, Cupar, Fife KY15 4LG  
Tel: (01334) 657722, fax: (01334) 657711,  
e-mail: sales@gleneaglesconversions.co.uk  
website: www.gleneaglesconversions.co.uk

Gleneagles  
Conversions Ltd

### Accessible Vehicle Register

We specialise in locating used vehicles to suit the specific needs of our customers. If you are looking for an accessible vehicle or have one to dispose of, contact Adam Price. We also supply and install all forms of access equipment.

01202 814112  
adam.price@lineone.net

### COTSWOLD COTS

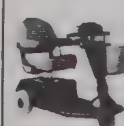
Build Cots and Beds for Adults and Children with Special Needs

We Design And Build Any Cot or Bed You Need.

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Ring Free anytime  
0800 074 6834  
All major credit cards accepted



**DWP**Department for  
Work and Pensions

## CHAIR - DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DEAC)

*The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions  
invites applications for the post of Chair of this new Committee.*

DEAC is an Advisory Body sponsored by the Department for Work and Pensions. The function of the Committee will be:

- To offer Ministers and Officials strategic advice on the employment of disabled people;
- To advise on the labour market barriers across Great Britain that disabled people face;
- To develop recommendations on the support required to overcome these barriers; and,
- To provide advice in confidence on the effectiveness of labour market policies and programmes, focusing on specialist and mainstream programmes, retention and rehabilitation measures and employment advice for disabled people, including delivery of programmes by Jobcentre Plus.

Applications are invited from, amongst others, disabled people, employers and representatives of trade unions and disability organisations.

**The Chair will:** Provide strategic direction for the Committee in line with its agreed terms of reference.

### Job Purpose:

- To agree with Ministers, the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus and DWP Officials a work plan and aims and objectives;
- To lead and direct Committee members in line with terms of reference to deliver the aims and objectives of agreed work plan; and,
- To provide progress reports to Ministers and Officials as necessary.

### The Chair should have:

- An understanding and knowledge of labour market issues especially those faced by disabled people;
- The ability to take a strategic view across Government of labour market policy and programmes;
- The ability to analyse and comment on policy proposals and research;
- Willingness to participate in public engagements and ad hoc projects;
- Credibility with organisations of and for disabled people; and,
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, recognising the significance of confidentiality.

This post is unpaid but relevant expenses will be reimbursed. The successful candidate will be appointed for 3 years and will be expected to attend 4-5 committee meetings a year. There will be additional meetings and events in any year. Applications are particularly welcomed from disabled people, women and ethnic minorities.

For further information and application details, please email: [pat.farrar@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:pat.farrar@dwp.gsi.gov.uk) or telephone: 0114 267 7242. Information is available in alternative formats including hard copy, Braille, disk, audiocassette and Welsh language.

The closing date is 2 April 2002.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

### • Personal

**Handidate**  
Introduction Agency

**Call now for free brochure** For disabled and able-bodied people

Established 1987

Tel: 01473 226950  
Fax: 01473 254030

E-mail: [handidate@btinternet.com](mailto:handidate@btinternet.com)  
Website: [www.handidate.com](http://www.handidate.com)

Freeport, Handidate, The Wellington Centre,  
52 Chevallier Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2BR  
A member of ABIA

Greater London Action on Disability (GLAD) is a dynamic pan London Organisation. We are looking for new people to join our team helping GLAD deliver a wide range of services to disabled Londoners. All candidates must display clear commitment to Equal Opportunities.

**Post 1** Black and Ethnic minority development worker (4 days per week). Salary £20,469 (pro rata) inclusive of ILW.

We are looking for a disabled person from the Black and Ethnic minority community who has experience of the mental health system or is a user survivor. They would be responsible for developing and supporting Black and Ethnic minority user/survivors, in particular to support their development as user led organisations.

**Post 2** Membership services Full time, Salary £20,469 Inclusive of ILW.

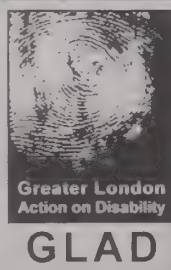
We are looking for a disabled person to be a Membership Services Officer who has a good understanding of Disability Issues, Charity Law, etc. You should have the ability to work with a wide range of agencies and have a commitment to delivering high quality and inclusive services. You will be advising and supporting member groups on a wide range of issues, for example charity law, company law, training for Management committees etc.

Applicants for both posts need to have substantial personal experience of disability and experience of working in the voluntary sector, providing organisational development support to groups and some knowledge of the relationships between user groups, commissioners, providers statutory and funders. You will be responsible for your own administration and should have experience using Microsoft Office Packages.

For an application pack in various formats, Please contact:

Janet Nixon at GLAD • Tel: **020 7346 5816** • Fax: **020 7346 8844**  
• Minicom: **020 7346 4554** • email: [j.nixon@glad.org.uk](mailto:j.nixon@glad.org.uk)

The closing date for both positions is Friday 15th February 2002. Interviews will be held in the following two weeks.



### • Holiday home for sale

5 BERTH CHALET IN MABLETHORPE.  
Pleasant site, with shop, LAUNDRETTE & PUB.  
Fully furnished, well equipped. Suitable for  
anyone, and particularly disabled. RAMPED ACCESS  
WITH HAND RAILS. SPACIOUS ROOMS, CUBICLE  
SHOWER. FOR FURTHER DETAILS TEL: 0116 2916628.

### • Services

**NEED A TRANSLATION?**  
I may be able to help. French or Spanish into  
English. No charge for small assignments.  
Standard rate £30 per 1000 words.  
Contact Emily Shields, tel/fax: 01489 894289,  
e-mail: [emily.shields@btinternet.com](mailto:emily.shields@btinternet.com)

### • For Sale

**INVATRAVEL  
CONVERSIONS LIMITED**  
Used converted Volkswagen  
Caravelles and Volkswagen  
Caddy Kombi's in stock.  
See our ad as on page 4



## MEDIATION UK DISABILITY CONCILIATION SERVICE

Mediation UK represents and supports mediation in the community and runs the national Disability Conciliation Service on behalf of the Disability Rights Commission. This is a unique service for people with disputes arising out of the Disability Discrimination Act (Part III) - access to goods and services which aims to promote settlements to such disputes through the use of conciliation rather than through the courts.

The following full time staff are required:

### MANAGER – Ref:dcs1

Circa £26,000 (under review)

- To manage and develop the service ensuring the highest standards of delivery
- At least 3 years management experience

Closing date: 18 February

Interview date: 1 March

### CONCILIATION CO-ORDINATOR –Ref:dcs2

Circa £22,600 (under review)

- To enable the smooth running of case referral and case management system
- Significant experience of maintaining and delivering high quality service to the public

Closing date: 18 February

Interview date: 5 March

All applicants need to show evidence of commitment to equality issues.

For a job information pack (also available in large print, disk, audio, Braille, electronics etc, please state requirements) contact, quoting job reference number: Mediation UK, Alexander House, Telephone Avenue, Bristol BS1 4BS. Tel: 0117 904 6661. E mail: [recruitment@mediationuk.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@mediationuk.org.uk)

**DEADLINES – March 2002 classified deadlines: Booking: 8th February. Copy: 12th February**



• Events

**THE BRITISH COUNCIL OF DISABLED PEOPLE** ARE RUNNING A SERIES OF SEMINARS ON CAMPAIGNING THEMES WHICH INCLUDE:

- CHARGES FOR COMMUNITY CARE
- HOW TO CAMPAIGN
- WORKSHOPS
- RECOGNITION OF BSL
- INFORMATION AND MUCH MORE

THE FIRST OF THESE SEMINARS IS TO BE HELD IN THE SOUTH EAST REGION ON 27TH FEBRUARY 2002. OTHER AREAS INCLUDE:

- NORTH EAST 13TH MARCH
- SOUTH WEST 12TH JUNE
- EASTERN 3RD JULY
- EAST MIDLANDS 17TH JULY
- NORTH WEST 11TH SEPTEMBER
- YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE 25TH SEPTEMBER

GREATER LONDON, WEST MIDLANDS, SCOTLAND AND WALES HAVE YET TO BE CONFIRMED.

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT VICKI OR SANDY AT THE BCODP OFFICES ON 01332 295551.



**COME AND FIGHT FOR OUR RIGHTS!**

## COURSES

To advertise your vacancies or courses please contact Richard, tel: 020 7619 7336, or Patrick, tel: 020 7619 7320, or contact them both on fax: 020 7619 7331, minicom: 020 7619 7332. They can go on the web as well!

• Recruitment (on pages 34 to 38)

# SCIE

Social Care Institute for Excellence

## BOARD MEMBERS

**We are looking to appoint seven independent Board Members for the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) to join SCIE's Chair and the three board members appointed by the Secretary of State for Health and by the National Assembly for Wales.**

SCIE is an independent charity and company limited by guarantee. It has been commissioned by the Department of Health and the National Assembly for Wales to bring together the knowledge of what works best in social care (for children, families and adults), drawing on the expertise and experience of people who use and work in social care services, and the findings from research, inspections and service reviews.

SCIE will make this knowledge widely available, will translate it into accessible policy and practice guidance, and will promote its use to enhance the quality of social care services.

Throughout all its work SCIE will be working closely with service users and their supporters and carers, with practitioners and service providers, and with social care researchers, educators and policy makers, in the statutory, voluntary and private sectors.

We are seeking to appoint board members with

the skills and experience to contribute to the shaping of SCIE's strategic direction and to oversee its performance as an independent company and charity with a key role in the development of social care.

Board members will be expected to commit about a day a month to SCIE and will have their expenses reimbursed. As SCIE will be registered as a charity, only in particular circumstances may it be possible to make a payment to some Board members.

Further information and application details are available from Linda Scantlebury at SCIE on 020 7089 6876, or from our web-site at [www.scie.org.uk](http://www.scie.org.uk), or SCIE, 1st Floor, Goldings House, 2 Hay's Lane, London SE1 2HB. If you should then want any further information or discussion please contact SCIE's Chair, Jane Campbell, or Chief Executive, Professor Ray Jones, on 020 7089 6840. The closing date for applications is 15 February 2002.

## Disability Discrimination Act Helpline Customer Service Professionals

Stratford-upon-Avon  
Full-time, shift system between 8am - 8pm

Working for Sitel, a global market leader in customer contact services, means joining a successful, dedicated and expanding team. Sitel employs over 2000 staff within the UK and you will be based at our facility in Stratford-upon-Avon.

You will handle in-depth enquiries from both members of the public and businesses.

Given the nature of the role, you'll need to be approachable, confident and above all, understanding.

Previous call handling experience of this nature would be an advantage but not essential as we offer full training, however you should have a keen interest in equal opportunities.

If you feel you have the confidence to work for Sitel, then contact us on:

Hotline: 0800 328 2284

Email: [humanresources-stratford@sitel.co.uk](mailto:humanresources-stratford@sitel.co.uk)

Web: [www.sitel.com](http://www.sitel.com)



An Equal Opportunities Employer

# KCIL

## KINGSTON CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (KCIL)

Community Development Officer  
NJC SO1, Point 29 £20,460  
(Full time - 35 hours per week)

A well established organisation of disabled people, KCIL requires a Community Development Officer who will ensure the views of disabled people are fully represented. This will involve:-

- Facilitating consultative processes between local disabled people and service providers.
- Outreach work through drop-ins and supporting groups of disabled people.
- Publishing our quarterly newsletter with the involvement of volunteers.

The post-holder will need to have a good understanding of the philosophy of independent living and a commitment to the social model of disability. Ideally you will have experience of user involvement and group development work. This post is offered initially on a one year contract - subject to continued funding.

For further details and an application pack (please state preferred format: large print, audio, Braille) please telephone 020 8255 2444 (minicom) or alternatively, fax us on 020 8255 2441 or email [marc@kcil.org.uk](mailto:marc@kcil.org.uk)

Closing date for applications is: 11th February 2002.

KCIL is an equal opportunities employer and particularly welcomes applications from disabled people.

## DisabilityCroydon

Charity Reg. No 803276

### DEVELOPMENT WORKER

Salary £21,000 - 21,840 (inc. London Weighting)

35 hours per week - initially for 2 years

DisabilityCroydon offers various services to local disabled people plus voluntary & statutory agencies. We seek a highly dynamic, self motivated innovator to maximise our potential in service development and delivery.

Preference will be given to suitably qualified disabled applicants.

Application pack (in various formats) available from:

DisabilityCroydon, 487a Purley Way, Croydon CR0 4RG

Tel: 020 8760 9927 Fax: 020 8680 7014. Closing Date: Monday 11th Feb.

## BRISTOL DIAL-A-RIDE

Providing Quality Transport Services to Disabled People

### Consultant: Let's Go Project (SRB6)

**BRP**



transport for school age children and produce a final report identifying pilot projects for the Let's Go Project.

You will have an understanding of local authority transport plans, demonstrate a commitment to the development of inclusive transport, and preferably work from a Social Model perspective.

Please call 0117 9395525 or e-mail [admin@bristoldialaride.org.uk](mailto:admin@bristoldialaride.org.uk) for further details.

**Bristol Dial-a-Ride is an equal opportunities employer**

We are looking for a consultant to undertake 6 months' research into the provision of accessible transport for school age disabled children in one small area of Bristol.

You will need to carry out an in-depth review of existing provision in Bristol, identify good practice in inclusive

## WORK FROM HOME!

Telephone interviewers needed for consumer research.

Occasional work in own time.

Earn approx £7 - £11 an hour.

### NO SELLING INVOLVED

Suits bright, outgoing people.

Experience preferred but not essential. Tel: 01635 200258

(9am - 4pm) weekdays.



**ft2** **FT2- FILM AND TELEVISION FREELANCE TRAINING** **skillset**  
 2002 recruitment now open for 3 distinct training schemes:

**NEW ENTRANT TECHNICAL TRAINING PROGRAMME** **Closing date: 1 April 2002**  
 FT2's highly acclaimed new entrant scheme has further places available for people determined to establish freelance careers in one of the following junior technical and production grades of the film and television industry:

Assistant Editor	Grip	Props Assistant
Art Department Assistant	Makeup/Hair Assistant	Sound Assistant
Camera Assistant/Clapper Loader	Production Assistant	Wardrobe Assistant

Applicants must be 18+, demonstrate a genuine interest and knowledge of the industry and a practical understanding of the assistant's job, probably gained through work experience or working as a runner. This is a two year, full time paid training scheme.

**SETCRAFTS APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING SCHEME** **Closing date: 15 April 2002**  
 We are looking for people aged 18 and over, who possess NVQ at Level 2 in either Fibrous Plastering, Painting or Carpentry, are hardworking, punctual, dedicated and want to train with crews building the sets for feature films. This is a two year salaried apprenticeship.

**INDEPENDENT COMPANIES RESEARCHER TRAINING SCHEME** **Closing date: 29 April 2002**  
 Are you aged 20+ with a passion for ideas? Do you enjoy factual television programmes? Do you have the drive to initiate innovative programme ideas? Further places are available on this highly successful scheme for researchers in factual programming. These are salaried training positions of 18 month duration.

Application forms and applicant information for all the schemes is available from our website on [www.ft2.org.uk](http://www.ft2.org.uk)  
 Please download, complete and mail back to us by the closing date indicated above.  
 Alternatively, mail us an A4 s.a.e., clearly marked which position you are applying for (e.g. assistant editor, plasterer etc.) to:  
 FT2, Fourth Floor, Warwick House, 9 Warwick Street, London W1B 5LY.

FT2 particularly welcomes applications from women, people from ethnic minority backgrounds and people with disabilities who are currently under-represented in the film and television industry.

**WECIL** **WEST OF ENGLAND CENTRE FOR INCLUSIVE LIVING**

• 35 hours per week  
 • 6% contributory pension  
 • 30 days leave

For application pack please contact:

Wendy Tyler  
 WECIL Ltd.  
 Leinster Avenue  
 Knowle  
 Bristol BS4 1AR  
 Tel: 0117 903 8900  
 (Voice and minicom)

e-mail:  
[wendy.tyler@wecil-ltd.demon.co.uk](mailto:wendy.tyler@wecil-ltd.demon.co.uk)

Over the last seven years the Integrated Living Scheme (ILSA) has established a national reputation as a model of good practice.

ILSA seeks a Disabled person as

**Personal Assistant Employment Advisor**  
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We are looking for a committed and enthusiastic Disabled person to join our team of Advisors to provide advice and support to individual Disabled people in establishing and running their own personal assistance schemes.

**Closing date: Friday 22nd February 2002**

WECIL particularly encourages applications from under represented groups (eg. Black Disabled people, Disabled Lesbians and Gay Men).

## Direct Payments Co-ordinator

£23,106 - £24,378 inc.

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You will:

- Participate in promotional activities to raise awareness of the scheme amongst potential users;
- Participate with other agencies in the delivery of training for care managers and direct payment recipients;
- Provide basic information and advice to people on the Greenwich direct payments scheme, including eligibility criteria. Advice and support about managing a direct payment is provided by a contracted advice organisation and you will be expected to work closely with this organisation.
- Maintain systems to ensure adequate financial monitoring of individual's direct payments.

Interviews will be held week commencing 11 March 2002.

For an application form and further details contact Directorate of Social Services, Personnel Services, Greenwich Council, Nelson House, 50 Wellington Street, Woolwich, London, SE18 6PY. Tel. 020 8921 2896 for a direct 24 hour voice mail line. No personal callers please. Please quote reference number Ref: A01042.

Alternatively, should you wish to receive an application pack by e-mail, forward your details to [dss-jobs@greenwich.gov.uk](mailto:dss-jobs@greenwich.gov.uk) quoting the job reference number.

Closing date: 15th February 2002.

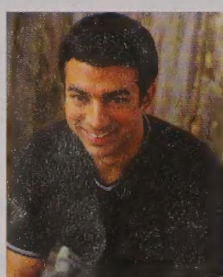
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